MONDAY
January 23, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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Vol.54 • No.18

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mahindra Rise

DEAR COMPANIES,
AS A CITIZEN OF
THE FUTURE,
I HAVE
A FEW QUESTIONS
FOR YOU.

Will the great things you make,
make the world great too?

Are you planning to make big factories
and bigger forests?

How much profit will the planet make
from your actions?

Would you look after farmers like
they look after their crops?

Is helping the less fortunate
a part of your business plans?

Do you agree that a woman is often
the best man for a job?

When you wake up in the morning,
is it to make the whole world rise?

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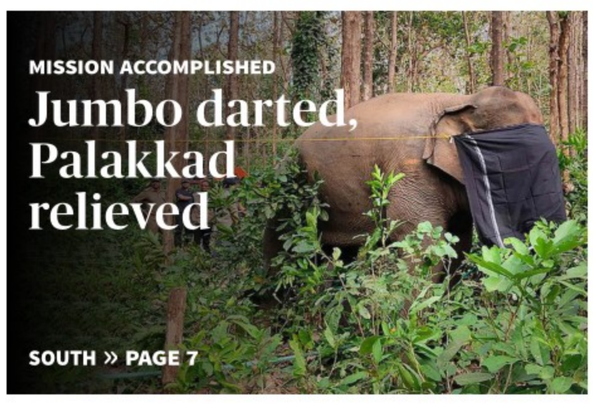
ANTI-'PATHAAN' PROTESTS

SRK calls Himanta to discuss security issue

NEWS » PAGE 10



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Jumbo darted, Palakkad relieved

SOUTH » PAGE 7

INQUIRY IN NARWAL

NIA team visits site of twin blasts in J&K

NEWS » PAGE 10

DATA POINT

Math skills in west, south India dipped most post-COVID

Findings from ASER

OPINION » PAGE 9

HEARTBREAK

India bows out of Hockey World Cup

SPORT » PAGE 15

Rijiju endorses former HC judge's view that top court 'hijacked' the Constitution

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

> Actually majority of the people have similar sane views. It's only those people who disregard the provisions of the Constitution and mandate of the people think that they are above the Constitution of India
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU**
> Union Law Minister

In a sign of escalating tensions between the Executive and the Judiciary, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said the majority of people had "sane views", similar to the one expressed by a retired High Court judge, who said the Supreme Court had "hijacked" the Constitution by deciding to appoint judges by itself.

Mr. Rijiju took to Twitter to share a video interview of the former Delhi High Court judge, Justice R.S. Sodhi (retd), and called it the "voice of a judge".

In the interview, Justice Sodhi also said the top court could not frame laws as it did not have the right to do so. "...Only Parliament will amend the Constitution. But here, I feel the Supreme Court for the first time hijacked the Constitution. After hijacking, they [the SC] said that 'we will appoint [judges] ourselves and the government will have no role in it'," he said in Hindi.

Endorsing the view, Mr. Rijiju tweeted: "Actually majority of the people have similar sane views. It's only those people who disregard the provisions of the Constitution and mandate of the people think that they are above the Constitution of India."

Another tweet said: "Voice of a Judge...Real beauty of Indian Democracy is– its success. People rule themselves through their representatives. Elected representatives represent the interests of the People & make laws. Our Judiciary is independent and our Constitution is Supreme." Mr. Rijiju's remarks are the latest in the tussle between the Centre and the Supreme Court over judicial appointments.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Exim data revised, trade deficit narrows by $10 bn

Exports between April and November now pegged at $298.3 billion, almost $12 billion higher than the initial estimates; import bill seen at $493.5 billion, about $1.7 billion up from the earlier figures

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's foreign trade data for the first eight months of 2022-23 have been significantly revised, with the import bill being scaled up or down by at least two billion dollars in each of those months, in comparison to the preliminary estimates issued by the Union Commerce Ministry.

The total merchandise exports between April and November are now pegged at $298.3 billion, nearly $12 billion higher than what the original monthly data suggested. The import bill in those eight months is now estimated at $493.5 billion, about $1.7 billion higher than the initial numbers. The trade deficit in the first eight months of the year is $10 billion lower than indicated by adding up monthly preliminary estimates.

Economists said such wide variations in data are unusual and make it difficult to formulate policies, especially when a critical focus area for the economy is managing the current account deficit, fuelled by rising imports and a feared slowdown in exports amid a global recession. The import figure for September 2022 has seen the sharpest revision, from an earlier estimate of just $61.1 billion to the year's highest tally at $64.7 billion.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Revised trade figures

The table shows India's revised trade balance data from April to November 2022

Months	Trade balance	Initial estimate	Revision
April	-18,360	-20,110	1,750
May	-22,125	-24,290	2,165
June	-22,210	-26,180	3,970
July	-25,607	-30,000	4,393
August	-26,848	-27,980	1,132
September	-29,236	-25,710	-3,526
October	-27,416	-26,910	-506
November	-23,372	-23,890	518
April - Nov.	-195,174	-205,070	9,896

All figures in $ million

Source: CEIC, Commerce and Industry Ministry

NEARBY

BBMP forest cell permits axing of over 800 trees

BENGALURU
The forest cell of the BBMP has given its approval for felling more than 800 trees for three projects in the city. Two projects received just one objection each for the public notice on tree felling. » Page 3

Flight plan for Aero India unveiled

BENGALURU
The aircraft participating in the Aero India 2023 will start arriving at Air Force Station Yelahanka, from February 7.
» Page 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 2

Business as usual

Contrasting picture: Tourists at a ski resort in Auli, located over 2,900 metres above sea level in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, following fresh snowfall on Sunday. Since Friday, over 300 tourists visited the destination, just 6 km from Joshimath where land subsidence has wreaked havoc. PTI

Ten killed in shooting near Los Angeles after festival

Associated Press
MONTEREY PARK

Ten people were killed in a mass shooting late on Saturday in a city east of Los Angeles following a Lunar New Year celebration that attracted thousands, the police said. Sgt. Bob Boese of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said the shooting, reported at 10.22 p.m., occurred at a business on Garvey Ave. in Monterey Park, largely an Asian-American neighbourhood.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 14

11-year-old boy killed in leopard attack in T. Narsipur taluk

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Villagers staging a protest at T. Narsipur over the killing of a boy by a leopard, on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A 11-year-old boy was found killed by a leopard at Horalahalli village in T. Narsipur taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday.

The victim, Jayanth, went missing on Saturday evening and his partially eaten body was found nearly 1.5 km away from the village amidst shrub vegetation. This is the second human death in suspected leopard attack in the last 48 hours and the fourth since the last three months in T. Narsipur taluk alone, sending shockwaves among the local community..

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday ordered the Forest Department to launch an intensive combing operation for the early capture of the leopard.

Mr. Bommai, who was speaking to mediapersons at Suttur, said that he had directed the deployment of additional staff to ramp up patrolling while the Deputy Commissioner was instructed to take all steps for the early capture of the leopard. Though the police had launched a search operation on receiving a complaint on Saturday evening, it was disbanded at night.

The search was resumed by local villagers at dawn on Sunday and they stumbled upon the boy's body about 2 km from his house.

Malathi Priya, Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Circle, who confirmed the incident, said the leopard had apparently taken away the boy from the main road of the village itself.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Tribal killed in tiger attack

A tribal was killed in a tiger attack at Balle in D.B. Kuppe range of Nagarahole National Park on Sunday.

The victim, aged around 19, was identified as Manju who was relieving himself when the tiger attacked him. » PAGE 7

Text&Context

THE HINDU

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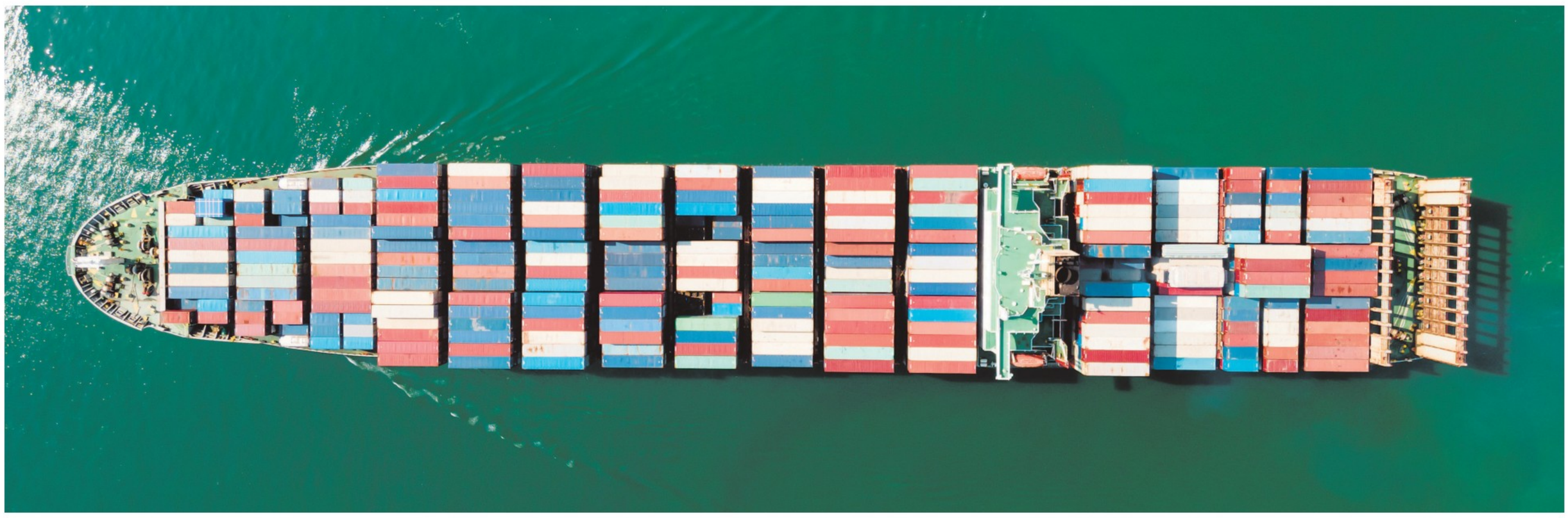
GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Dragon tightens its grip

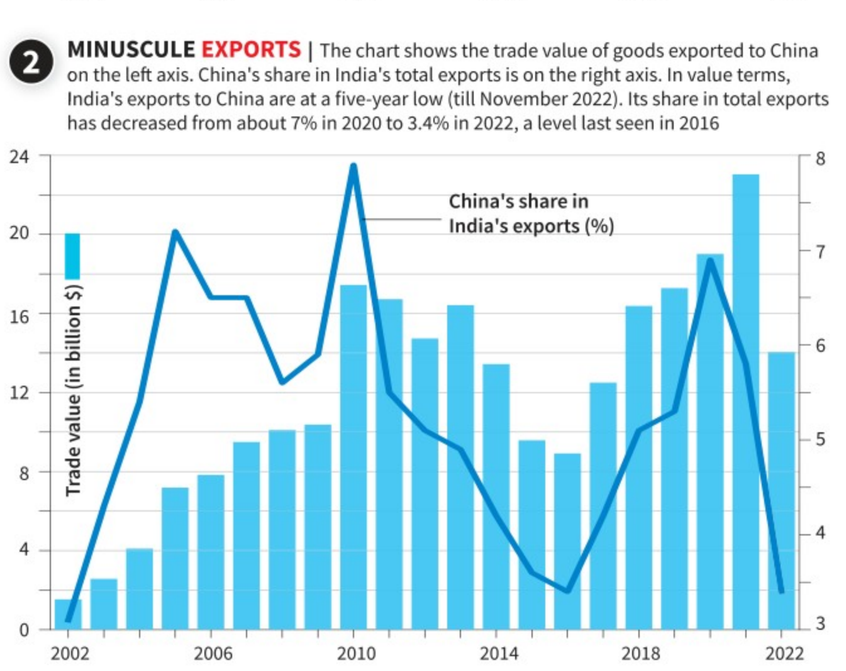
In 2022, India's imports from China touched a record high while exports to China fell to a five-year low. This imbalance has further widened the trade deficit. Electrical machinery and mechanical appliances were the most imported goods by India from China. India's dependency on China for such goods has remained high for quite some time now. However, India is not alone as dependency on imports from China has also grown among Indian neighbouring countries and other BRICS nations. **By Jasmin Nihalani**



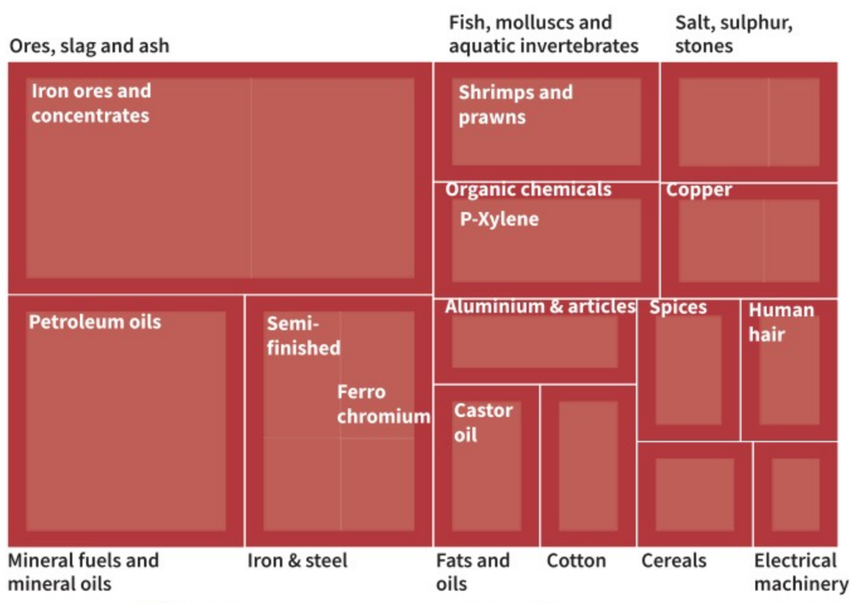
2022 figures are until November

1 RISING IMPORTS | The chart shows the trade value of goods imported from China on the left axis. China's share in India's total imports is plotted on the right axis. In value terms, imports from China soared to a record $94.7 billion in 2022. When considered as a share of India's total imports, it formed 14% in 2022, though the share peaked in 2016

2 MINUSCULE EXPORTS | The chart shows the trade value of goods exported to China on the left axis. China's share in India's total exports is on the right axis. In value terms, India's exports to China are at a five-year low (till November 2022). Its share in total exports has decreased from about 7% in 2020 to 3.4% in 2022, a level last seen in 2016

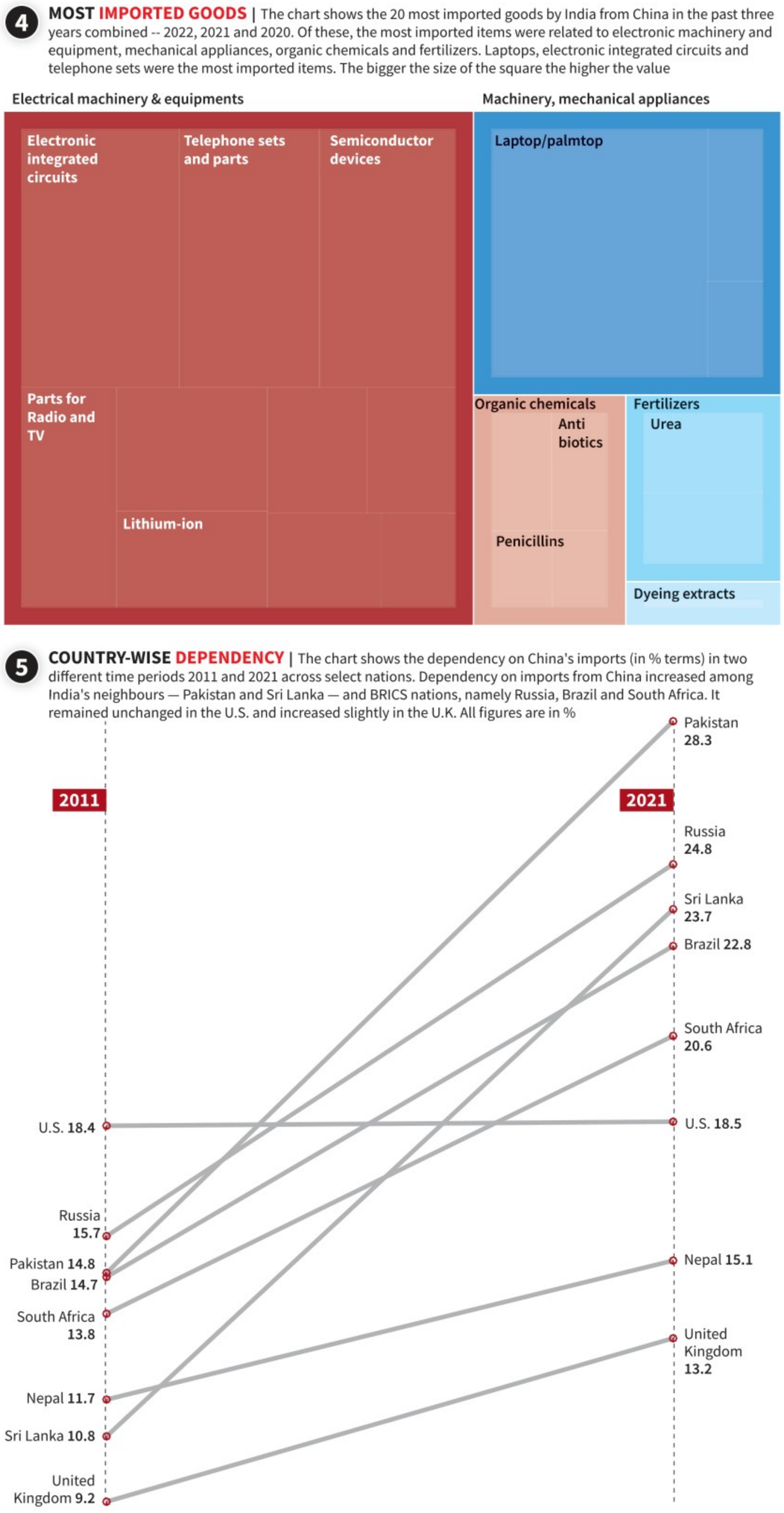


3 MOST EXPORTED ITEMS | The chart shows the 20 most exported goods by India to China in the past three years combined -- 2022, 2021 and 2020. Of these, the most exported items were related to categories such as ores, mineral fuels and oils and iron and steel. The bigger the size of the square the higher the value of exported items

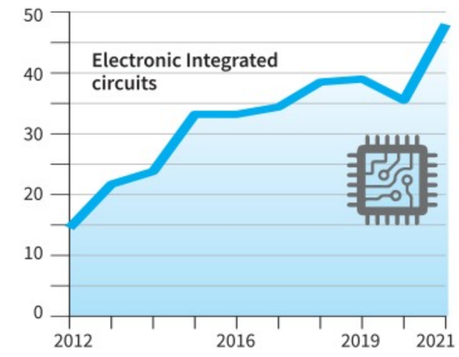


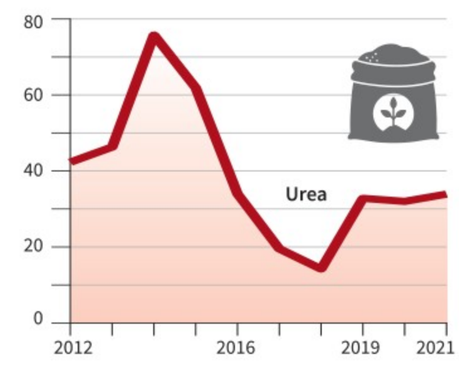
4 MOST IMPORTED GOODS | The chart shows the 20 most imported goods by India from China in the past three years combined -- 2022, 2021 and 2020. Of these, the most imported items were related to electronic machinery and equipment, mechanical appliances, organic chemicals and fertilizers. Laptops, electronic integrated circuits and telephone sets were the most imported items. The bigger the size of the square the higher the value

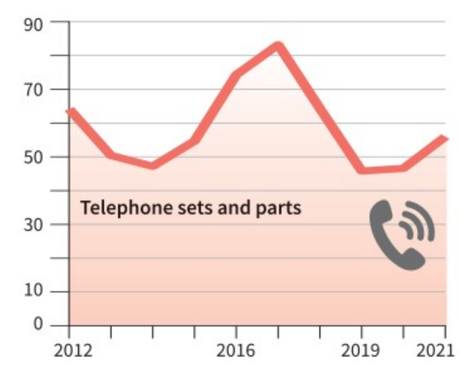
5 COUNTRY-WISE DEPENDENCY | The chart shows the dependency on China's imports (in % terms) in two different time periods 2011 and 2021 across select nations. Dependency on imports from China increased among India's neighbours — Pakistan and Sri Lanka — and BRICS nations, namely Russia, Brazil and South Africa. It remained unchanged in the U.S. and increased slightly in the U.K. All figures are in %



6 ITEM DEPENDENCY | The charts show India's dependency on China for select imported goods (in % terms). In the case of goods like laptops and semiconductor devices, dependency has remained high







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THE HINDU GROUP

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The fifth edition of the Sportstar ACES Awards is here to celebrate sports and camaraderie. ACES offers you an opportunity to vote for your favourite sporting stars who have made India proud with their exploits on the world stage in the past year.

Let us celebrate every sport, every athlete and every patron behind India's sporting success. They have brought us laurels, now it is our turn to win them some.

CATEGORIES

- National team of the year
- Club team of the year
- Sporting moment of the year
- Sportstar of the year (Male)
- Sportstar of the year (Female)
- Spirit of Sports - *Best example of sportsmanship*

To vote, scan the QR code.

SPORTSTAR ACES 2023 INDIA TRIUMPHS

Water supply to be hit today in some localities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be disruption in water supply on Monday in view of deviation and valve replacement works.

Affected areas
According to a press release from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the areas to be affected are Chandra Layout, Gangondanahalli, Nayandahalli, Metro Layout, Vinayaka Layout, Magadi Road, and surrounding areas.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 08:08	SET 20:00
TUESDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 08:58	SET 21:00
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 09:44	SET 21:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	19
Mysuru	28	12
Bengaluru	27	15

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool with haze and mist.

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Advance bookings galore for the first long weekend of 2023

Discovering hitherto unknown destinations, a major trend last year, seems to have made its way to itineraries this time too

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Tourists visiting a beach in Karwar. B.S. SATISH KUMAR

After a successful holiday season during Christmas and New Year, travel is booming again with the first long weekend of 2023, after Republic Day – soon approaching. Private tour operators reported at least 40% rise in advance bookings for the weekend while noticing a considerable increase in the inflow of tourists to Karnataka during the time in comparison with the same season last year.

While discovering previously unknown destinations was a major travel trend in the previous year after the pandemic, it seems to have made its way to this year's itineraries too. "Isolationist travel is a concept that was gaining steam in 2022 but it may finally be unveiled at its full potential in 2023 when more people would choose undiscovered destinations which have the natural vista sans the commotion of massive crowds," said Nishant Pitti, CEO and co-founder, EaseMyTrip.

He added, "Searches for domestic flights around Republic Day increased by 185% this year when compared with the same time pre-pandemic, suggesting that the long weekend provides a strong reason for travellers to go out."

Top destinations
Mumbai, Delhi, Andaman, Puducherry, Tirupati, Rameswaram, and Mahabalipuram seem to be the top destinations preferred by travellers of Karnataka for the long weekend. There is also an uptick in the number of tourists wanting to travel to religious destinations. Post Christmas, we have witnessed significant inquiries and bookings for religious destinations," said Aditya Gupta, senior vice-president - Hotels, Yatra Online Ltd.

He also said that there was a 50% increase in queries for hotel bookings and 20-25% increase in flight booking queries from the State. While last year was mostly characterised by international travel, this year has started with more interest in domestic travel, which has reflected in an increase in train bookings for the upcoming long weekend.

"Outbound travel from Bengaluru to tourist destinations such as Visakhapatnam, Goa, Tirupati, Mysuru, and Coimbatore are seeing notably high train travel demand," said Sripad Vaidya, co-founder and COO, ConfirmTkt.

As always, within the State, Kodagu, Mysuru, Kabini, Hampi, Chikkamagaluru, and Badami are the preferred destinations among travellers from other States.

Flight plan for Aero India unveiled

Schedule

Date	Time	Event
February 13	9.30 a.m. to 9.40 a.m.	Inaugural flypast
	9.41 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Flying display
	12 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Customer demo flight
February 14–15	9.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2.31 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Customer demo flight
	12.01 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Flying display
February 16–17	9.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Flying display
	12.01 p.m. to 2 p.m.	Customer demo flight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The aircraft participating in the Aero India 2023 will start arriving at the venue of the airshow, Air Force Station Yelahanka, from February 7.

The 14th edition of Aero India is to be held between February 13 and 15.

According to the air show's flying manual, the arrival of aircraft for flying display will commence on February 7 followed by a briefing for all flying display pilots.

The flypast and flying display practice, sector familiarisation, and customer demonstration flight practice will start a day later and will be conducted every day till February 11.

A large number of Indian and foreign aircraft, mainly military ones, are expected to take part along with display teams from India and abroad in the airshow which returns to its traditional five-day format this year. The last edition of the airshow was held amid the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and was reduced to a three-day event.

The final dress rehearsal will be held on February 11. On the inaugural day of the airshow (February 13), the inaugural flypast and flying display will be conducted between 9.30 a.m. and 12 p.m., followed by customer demonstration flights between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.

On the business days (February 14 and 15), the customer demonstration flights will be held twice each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2.31 p.m. to 5 p.m. The flying display on the business day will be between 12.01 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

On the public days (February 16 and 17), the flying display will be held twice each day from 9.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The customer demonstration flight will be held between 12.01 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The aircraft which will be on static display will start arriving at the venue from February 8. All aircraft should depart the venue by February 19.

As of January 22, 708 exhibitors – including 610 Indian and 98 foreign exhibitors – have registered.

Disruption in power supply

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be disruption in power supply on Monday and Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for quarterly maintenance works.

According to a Bescom release, the following areas will be affected: on January 23 – Laxmi Layout, Kammanahalli, Doddamma Layout, Panduranga Nagar Layout, Kothanur, Arakere, Mico Layout, Syndicate Bank Colony, Thimmappa Reddy Layout, Ramaiah City, Venkateshwara BDA Layout, Jambusavari Dinne, Gottigere, and Kembathalli; and on January 25 – RBI Layout, Kothanur, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Shreyas Colony, Gaurav Nagar, Nataraja Layout, Nrupathunganagar, Jambusavari Dinne, and Chunchaghatta.

READER'S MAIL

Restore order in Gandhi Bazaar
Sir, – It has been over a month since the BBMP commenced a major civil reconstruction and renovation work on the busy Gandhi Bazaar main road and connecting roads in Basavanagudi, a heavily commercialised area. But, regrettably, other than barricading some of the roads, the traffic police have done little to regulate the traffic and pedestrian flow in the area. It is an everyday pandemonium here as people are constrained to navigate dug-up roads dotted with heavy construction equipment, risking their own safety, and motorists flout the one-way rule on narrow roads already brimming with parked vehicles. To minimise the impact of the project, the authorities ought to have drawn up a contingency plan well in advance and also altered the parking arrangements suitably. As the project is not likely to complete anytime soon, the traffic police must act urgently to restore order in the area.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

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Going international

With the UGC having released draft norms for foreign universities to establish campuses in India, what will be the potential impact on students and home institutions?

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

R. W. Alexander Jesudasan

Early in the New year, the University Grants Commission released a draft of the norms for foreign universities and educational institutions to establish their campuses in India. After taking feedback and opinions from various stakeholders, the final policy is expected to be published soon. This is in keeping with the recommendations for the internationalisation of higher education in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP). What will this mean for students and institutions in India?

Affordability vs exposure
While students aspiring to study abroad may save on the cost of travel, stay and other incidental expenditure, they will miss out on the exposure to food, culture and other nuances that goes hand in hand with studying in a foreign country. While the draft norms state that foreign institutions will be free to fix their fee structure, the question of affordability has to be considered. Another aspect is the equivalence with Indian degrees so that students are able to find jobs in the government and private sector and take the various competitive exams for government jobs.

New programmes
Will the foreign universities setting up campuses in India offer programmes that are not offered in this country? This will be a welcome approach as Indian students can develop expertise in domains that will enhance their knowledge base and their employment opportunity. With the UGC also allowing dual degree programmes, students may be able to pursue two programmes, of which one could be from a foreign university in India.

Competition to home institutions
The presence of foreign universities in India will bring in an element of competition and increase the standards and quality of Indian institutions. If foreign universities are going to offer the same programmes already available in India, it might cause a problem for institutions located in far-off or rural areas. As it is, many private institutions are closing down due to a lack of enrollments.

Foreign collaborations
Many Indian institutions have overseas partners for short-term and long-term collaborative programmes. With foreign institutions opening campuses in India, what will happen to such programmes, which have brought in substantial benefits to both partners in terms of student and faculty mobility, research options and cross-cultural experiences? Overseas institutions setting up campuses in our country will pose difficulties in continuing with the study-abroad programmes. With the new arrangement, how will India be a chosen destination for overseas students to reciprocate, if our students get admission in a foreign university's Indian campus?

The writer is Pro Vice-Chancellor Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (Deemed to be University), Chennai.

SCHOLARSHIPS

TSDPL Silver Jubilee Scholarship Programme
Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited (TSDPL) aims to support meritorious students from low-income families .
Eligibility: Open to domicile students in Jamshedpur, Kalinganagar, Pantnagar, Faridabad, Pune, Chennai, Tada and Kolkata, who are pursuing MBBS, BDS, PG medical courses (any specialisation), paramedical courses, ITI/diploma subjects such as fitter, electrical, welders, from government-recognised institutes. Must have scored at least 60% marks in their Class 10 and 12 exams. Annual family income must not be more than ₹5 lakhs from all sources.
Rewards: ₹1 lakh for one year
Deadline: January 31, 2023
Application: Online
b4s.in/plus/TSDPL1

JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship
The JN Tata Endowment invites applications from students who wish to pursue higher studies overseas. Selected students may be recommended for a partial 'Travel Grant' and a 'Gift Award', which is linked to their academic performance.
Eligibility: Open to Indian nationals who have completed at least one undergraduate degree OR students in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised institution in India. Candidates must be willing to pursue Postgraduate/ Doctoral/ Postdoctoral studies abroad. Those entering the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2023 - Spring 2024) are also eligible. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is two years and there is at least one full academic year remaining at the time of award of the loan scholarship, normally by July of any calendar year. Students must have scored at least 60% marks in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies. Candidates must not be older than 45 years as on June 30, 2023.
Rewards: Up to ₹10 lakh
Deadline: March 07, 2023
Application: Online
b4s.in/plus/JNT6

Nikon Scholarship Programme
Nikon India Private Limited aims to support students from underprivileged sections pursue photography-related courses.
Eligibility: Open to students (Class 12 passed onwards) pursuing photography courses with a duration of three months or more. Annual family income should be less than ₹6 lakhs.
Rewards: Up to ₹1 lakh
Deadline: January 31, 2023
Application: Online
b4s.in/plus/NSP9

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cost overturns for 343 infrastructure projects, says MOSPI

4.5 In ₹ lakh crore, the cost overturns for 343 infrastructure projects out of 1,438 projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). The original cost for the implementation of projects was ₹20.35 lakh crore. The latest completion cost is ₹24.86 lakh crore. PTI

Foreign portfolio investors pull out equities in January

15,236 In ₹ crore, the net worth of equities pulled out by foreign investors this month so far on attractive Chinese markets and concerns about the U.S. economy entering a recession. The outflow in January came following a net inflow of ₹11,119 crore in December and ₹36,239 crore in November. PTI

Displaced Syrians killed in building collapse in Aleppo

13 The number of people killed, including children, authorities and media in a building collapse in Syria's war-torn city of Aleppo. A Kurdish news agency said five children were among the dead. A war monitor said that they were all Syrians displaced during more than a decade of fighting in the country. The five-storey building collapsed in the early hours of the day. AFP

Drop in the inflow of gold exchange-traded funds in 2022

90 In percentage, the drop in the inflow of gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to ₹459 crore in 2022 due to rising prices of the yellow metal, and increasing interest rate structure coupled with inflationary pressures, according to the Association of Mutual Funds in India. This is lower than an inflow of ₹4,814 crore seen in the segment during 2021. PTI

National capital's air quality index worsens drastically: IMD

407 Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) on Sunday, declining from 294 on Saturday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). However, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) chose not to invoke curbs in view of a prediction of "immediate improvement". PTI

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

A lesson from China on gig and platform workers' rights

The swell of public opinion in China has enabled government regulation and change in company policy. Indians should also make an effort to be better informed about the way these platforms work

Sowmiya Ashok

On January 20, foodtech delivery platform Swiggy announced that it was laying off 380 employees due to challenging macroeconomic conditions. In this article dated September 30, 2021, Sowmiya Ashok explains how the Indian public need to be more informed about the plight of gig workers, taking a leaf out of China's experience with the same

RAGHUNATHAN S. R.

On September 20, 2021, the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers, on behalf of gig workers, filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court demanding that the Union government provide succour to workers affected by the pandemic. The petition has asked for 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' to be declared as 'unorganised workers' so they come under the purview of the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008. In short, the petition demands social security benefits from food delivery platforms such as Zomato and Swiggy and taxi aggregator apps such as Ola and Uber.

That same week, China strode ahead in this regard. Owing to public pressure, two of its food delivery platforms, Meituan and Ele.me, committed to end the practice of forcing workers to register as 'independent businesses', which has long helped these platforms evade responsibilities as employers. Both platforms run a duopoly in the sector, capturing over 90% of the market share, and employ millions of gig workers. In a notice to labour aggregator partners, Meituan said it prohibited signing on delivery workers "through deceptive or coercive means".

'Invisible' to 'frontline'

The one major factor that the pandemic has helped change is the erstwhile 'invisibility' of delivery workers. Through 2020, a trend that spanned China, India, the U.S. and Europe saw 'invisible workers' being propelled to 'frontline workers'. In China, this was especially the case in Wuhan, the pandemic's epicentre, where there was a clear transition of social discourse in favour of delivery workers. *People's Daily* , the largest state-affiliated daily in China, responded to public sentiment by ranking delivery work among the top 10 occupations.

The media aided this transformation. In the fall of 2020, *Renwu*, a monthly Chinese magazine, took an exhaustive look at the plight of delivery workers across the two food delivery platforms. Titled 'Delivery Riders, Trapped in the System', the article was shared over 200 million times on the Chinese internet indicating how deeply Chinese social media users connected with the issue. One indicator of how seriously an issue is taken by the public is its virality on the Chinese web. In 2015, for instance, a TED-style talk on China's pollution crisis got 100 million views across major video streaming sites within 48 hours of its release, resulting in policy change.

The *Renwu* piece highlighted how delivery workers were trapped in a "sophisticated labour control system" that they had unwittingly downloaded onto their phones. Simply put, the algorithm that is put in place by platforms is designed to create animosity between app users and workers, where the platform inherently shifts the pressure of receiving orders and maintaining smooth flow of deliveries onto the workers.

But it is important to note that the pushback against influential platforms had begun long before COVID-19. Over the years, strikes in different parts of China have reflected this growing backlash. As food delivery platforms expanded through the pandemic period, growing massively in revenue and scale, strikes increased in numerous Chinese cities and have continued despite various barriers to collective action. In early 2021, in successive strikes spanning over two months, delivery workers protested against poor working conditions. In cities such as Shenzhen, Tongxiang and Linyi, delivery workers protested against new company policies that slashed their pay per delivery. A protest in Taizhou saw a delivery worker set himself on fire demanding unpaid wages.

In 2018, an Associate Professor of Sociology at Harvard University, Ya-Wen Lei, documented strikes in Chongqing, a municipality in southwest China. She found that workers had mobilised through social media and offline meetings. They united to protest against "decreasing piece rates" and "unilateral change of contract terms or platform rules". At the time of her fieldwork, the Chinese state had not intervened in the market to restrain the monopoly powers of platforms or initiate antitrust investigations. This provided platforms with unrestricted powers to exercise technological control.

But the pandemic was curious in this regard. It began with the Chinese state indicating that platforms should help soak up the devastating effects of the pandemic on the workforce. And it ended with the state asserting "increased control" over major tech companies, including Meituan for allegedly abusing its dominant market position, via the new anti-monopolistic guidelines.

In China, where the government is now focused on "common prosperity", which seeks to narrow a widening wealth gap that threatens the country's economic rise, the government's scrutiny over food delivery platforms has increased. The authoritarian context, a weak civil society and the absence of independent labour unions leaves gig workers in China with very little option but to go on strike or protest, despite the risks, to affect change. In April, Caixin reported that a government official disguised himself as a Meituan driver and worked a 12-hour shift barely making RMB 41 ($6.32) for a day's work. He was featured in a television programme in Beijing and stated that the experience left him feeling humiliated. In July, seven government agencies jointly passed guidelines directing online food delivery platforms that they should not set evaluation criteria based on optimisation algorithms, must respect the rights of delivery workers and ensure that they earn at least a minimum wage with social insurance. Many of these government initiatives have been public-driven. It was in the government's interest to intervene when it realised that there was growing discontent not only among the delivery workers but also the public about their plight.

The Indian context

The situation is vastly different in India. Any reform in this sector is led wholly by delivery workers, not the public. For 27 days in 2020, close to 3,000 delivery workers from Swiggy went on strike in Hyderabad to protest the slash in remuneration from ₹35 to ₹15 per order. The strikes disbanded only after the Joint Commissioner of the Labour Department called a hearing with the platform's operations manager and the workers' union. It was the first time in India that such a negotiation was taking place, that too on the street. This year, in the lead up to Zomato's July IPO, several anonymous Twitter accounts set up by delivery workers called customers' attention to what they deem as "exploitative practices" employed by platforms. The PIL in the Supreme Court is another major step in this regard.

The biggest lesson from China is the swell of public opinion that has partly led to government regulation and change in company policy. In the U.S., a gig workers collective has urged customers to delete the Instacart app as a show of solidarity until demands for better working conditions are met. Indians could make an effort to be better informed about the way platforms work by seeking out delivery workers and asking about their work conditions and the pressures they face. We will then be aware of the price that a person, who we only see as a miniature bike on our apps, pays for our convenience.

Sowmiya Ashok is an independent journalist based in Chennai.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

You should use shank's mare to go to offfice from now on

My neighbour was admitted in the hospital for a week, after which he was removed to hospice care

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the idiom 'shank's mare'? (Amit Tanwar)
This is a relatively old expression. Some dictionaries list it as 'shanks's mare'. According to scholars, 'shank's mare' is a translation of the Scottish 'shank's naig'. 'Mare', which rhymes with 'share', 'dare' and 'ware', is a female horse. The word 'shank' does not refer to a person; in the context of the idiom, it refers to the portion of the leg between the knee and the ankle. When you say that you will be using 'shank's mare' to get from one place to another, what you mean is that you are going to be using your legs – not the mare's shank, but yours! In other words, you are going to be walking to your destination. It is also possible to say, 'shank's pony'. We have similar slang expressions in our own languages. For example, the Tamil equivalent of 'shank's mare' would be 'Nataraja service' – which is a corruption of 'nada da raja'!

Whenever I have to go to the club, I prefer to use shank's mare.

What is the difference between 'hospital' and 'hospice'? (T. Jaganathan, Hyderabad)
We all know what a hospital is. We may spend a few hours there or it could be a few days – the duration depends upon the seriousness of the illness or the injury. The important thing, however, is that most patients who go to a hospital hope to come back alive – and many of them actually do. The fact that we may spend some time there should not come as a surprise, for the word 'hospital' comes from the Latin 'hospitale' meaning 'guest house'. In the past, it referred to the shelter provided by churches and monasteries to weary travellers. With the passage of time, the word took on the meaning that we are familiar with today.

A 'hospice' is very different from a hospital; only the terminally ill are usually admitted to one. In other words, those who are seriously ill and have no chance of recovery are admitted to one. Someone who is admitted to a hospice knows that he will be dying there. The function of the medical staff in a hospice is not to cure a patient of his illness, but to keep him as comfortable as possible till his death. The word 'hospice' consists of two syllables. The first (hos) rhymes with the words 'boss', 'loss' and 'toss', while the second (pis) rhymes with 'miss', 'kiss' and 'hiss'.

You need to be in a hospice and not a hospital.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

'Netaji' Subhas Chandra Bose, a fierce nationalist and prominent freedom fighter, was born on January 23, 1897. A quiz on the occasion of Netaji's 126th birthday

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Who is credited with giving the honorific 'Netaji' to Subhas Chandra Bose?

QUESTION 2
In 2021, the Government of India announced that his birthday would be celebrated as what?

QUESTION 3
Name the political party founded by Bose in 1939 after resigning from the Indian National Congress.

QUESTION 4
What name and profession did Bose assume when he escaped from India in January 1941?

QUESTION 5
In the much-acclaimed Shyam Benegal work *Bose The Forgotten Hero*, who enacted the protagonist?

QUESTION 6
Who dubbed Bose 'Prince among Patriots' and with what title did the latter reciprocate the former in a radio address in July 1944?

QUESTION 7
What names had Bose suggested for Andaman and Nicobar Islands when he was active as the leader of the Azad Hind Fauj? And which island in the UT was named after him in 2018?

Visual question:
Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee is paying homage at which temple in Japan that has a statue of Bose and purportedly the ashes of the leader. PTI

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the January 20 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This President was the first to be inaugurated on January 20. **Ans: Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was sworn into office for a second term**
2. This former President attended his son's inauguration in 2001. **Ans: George H.W. Bush and his son George W. Bush**
3. This post-ceremony tradition was started by Jimmy Carter in 1977. **Ans: Walk all the way from the Capitol to the White House with the family after the ceremony.**
4. Barack Obama and Donald Trump took their oath on a Bible used by this former President. **Ans: Abraham Lincoln**
5. This President's ceremony was the first to be telecast on the Internet. **Ans: Bill Clinton's second term in 1997**
6. The only President not to attend an inauguration ceremony in the 21st century. **Ans: Donald Trump in 2021**
7. The common link between the *The Gift Outright*, *On the Pulse of Morning*, and *One Today.* **Ans: Poems read by their authors at the inauguration**
Visual: Name this lady. **Ans: Amanda Gorman who recited *The Hill We Climb* at the 2021 inauguration**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Himani Sahai| Bhanu Priya Ashok

Word of the day

Vacillate:
be undecided about something; waver between conflicting positions or courses of action; move or sway in a rising and falling or wavelike pattern

Synonyms: oscillate, hover, waver, fluctuate

Usage:
He keeps vacillating between having a night in or going out for dinner.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/vacillatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈvæ.sə.leɪt/, /ˈvæ.sɪ.leɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BBMP forest cell permits axing of over 800 trees for three projects

The projects are re-development of Yeshwantpur railway station, KRDCL road-widening work, and construction of elevated metro line and stations from Dooravaninagar to Kempapura Cross

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The forest cell of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has given its approval for felling more than 800 trees for three projects in the city. In separate orders, the Deputy Conservator of Forest, who is also the tree officer, has given the approval for felling trees to make way for projects such as re-development of Yeshwantpur railway station, a road widening by the Karnataka Road Development Corporation (KRDCL), and metro project near Kempapura.

A file photo of trees cut for widening Ballari Road in Bengaluru.

One objection

Interestingly, two projects received just one objection each for the public notice on tree felling. One of them was re-development of Yeshwantpur station. South Western Railway (SWR) had approached for the removal for 253 trees. The objection received was related to the depletion of green cover in the city and suggested changes in design to take up the project adjoining the area where there are no trees. The SWR had replied stating that the re-development project was approved after deliberations at various levels and approved by the Railway Board. The SWR also maintained that existing passenger amenities are not sufficient and inadequate to cater to the future growth of Bengaluru. The SWR defended the need for re-development of the station.

The order by the DCF directed the SWR to retain 79 trees and relocate 33 trees. The remaining 141 trees will be felled.

Another project that received just one objection is a project proposed by the KRDCL. The agency is upgrading the road stretch between Gunjur to Belathur. The agency maintains that the stretch between Attibele and Hoskote is a congested road section and has proposed widening the stretch and providing a signal-free corridor. The 5-km stretch falls within the BBMP limits. The KRDCL is upgrading the road from two lanes to four lanes.

KRDCL response

The response from the KRDCL states, "Varthur and Gunjur are two densely built-up areas in the southern part of Bengaluru. These two areas are rapidly developing as residential and commercial hubs in proximity to ITPL, Whitefield, Electronics City, and Hosur. Varthur and Gunjur areas besides being IT hubs have also developed as educational hubs as a number of international schools are located on this stretch. It is a painful sight to see school buses with small children getting stuck in traffic jams for several hours daily. As the road width is narrow and the stretch is underdeveloped, the road is lacking in basic infrastructure such as storm-water drains, utility corridors, and footpaths. In the absence of drains, the rainwater flows on the asphalt road surface, thereby creating potholes and causing inconvenience to road users."

The tree officer directed the agency to retain 163 trees and relocate 82 trees; the remaining 480 trees will be felled for the project.

Metro project

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) had sought permission for axing trees for building an elevated metro line and station from Dooravaninagar to Kempapura Cross. The line is part of the ORR-Airport line.

To the public notice issued by the tree officer, 97 objections and suggestions were received. People who objected to the felling of trees for the metro project highlighted the depletion of green cover in the city and some alleged flaws in the process of public consultation. Some of the people also demanded a "walkthrough" of the metro alignment to better understand the project and proposed felling of the trees. The BMRCL had maintained the detailed project report of the metro project and subsequent approvals had already been made available in public domain.

203 trees to be cut

The tree officer took a decision to retain 14 trees and translocate 43 trees coming in the way of the metro project. Two places such as land available on BWSSB STP premises at Hebbal and the KIADB's hi-tech defence and aerospace park at Hoovinayakanahalli were identified for translocation. Remaining 203 trees will be axed.

Valuables stolen from PSU bank locker

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashok Nagar police on Friday registered an FIR against branch manager and staff members of the Central Bank of India, Brigade Road branch, for cheating after a 57-year-old customer lost her valuables from the bank's locker.

The victim, Mary George, a resident of Richmond Town, had a savings bank account and locker facility at the bank. She had kept valuables in the locker, including gold valuables, important documents, bank chequebooks, jewel box, and foreign and Indian coins. She did not use the locker facility for some time and went to check in October 2021. To her shock and dismay, valuables were missing and she raised a complaint with the branch manager.

The manager after verification agreed that the valuables might have been missing but did not take any action. After waiting for some time when there was no response from the bank, Ms. George filed a private complaint with the 29th Additional City Metropolitan Magistrate Court and got directions to the Ashok Nagar police to register a case and investigate the matter. Ms. George said that someone had used the duplicate keys of the locker to steal valuables.

The police said they would summon the bank staff and the custodian of the lockers for questioning and verify the CCTV camera footage for further investigation.

Free entry for girls to Mysuru Rail Museum tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

South Western Railway has announced that all girls with one parent or guardian will be given free entry to Mysuru Rail Museum on Tuesday as part of National Girl Child Day.

The holiday for public viewing on Tuesday has been cancelled to commemorate the event.

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Techie has a narrow escape as barricade at metro site falls on car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close to the heels of an under-construction Namma Metro pillar collapsing and killing a woman and her two-and-a-half-year-old son, a 33-year-old software engineer and his family had a narrow escape after a barricade put up at the metro construction site fell on their car at Doddanekundi junction towards Mahadevapura on the Outer Ring Road on Saturday.

The incident occurred at about 3.30 p.m. when the car owner, Santosh Kumar, a resident of Junnasandra, was going home with his family. While the car was passing through Karthik Nagar and towards K.R. Puram, the barricade crashed on it, damaging the front portion. However, the occupants of the car were safe but were in shock. BMRCL officials rushed to the spot and inspected the site and damage to the car.

There was a strong gust of wind that probably brought down the barricade, a traffic police officer who was at the spot said. It was a narrow escape for other two-wheeler riders and pedestrians, as if the barricade had crashed on them it could have been fatal, the officer said. However, metro officials claimed the car had rammed into the barricade and the bonnet of the car was damaged.

Third accident

This is the third accident linked to metro work in less than two weeks. Last week, a sinkhole appeared on Brigade Road and a biker was injured.

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Bengaluru City University slashes remuneration for guest faculty members by nearly 40%

Several such lecturers have opposed the move by terming it as unethical; varsity says it is following UGC rules

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University has cut the remuneration for guest faculties by nearly 40% for the coming academic year, drawing the ire of guest faculty members. What has also caused consternation is that the university has now mandated even part-time guest faculty members to stay on the campus from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and mark biometric attendance, making it difficult for them to teach elsewhere.

The university was earlier paying ₹1,250 per hour for guest faculty who have passed the National Eligibility Test (NET), State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) or are PhD holders, which has now been slashed by nearly 40% to ₹780. Non-PhD holders and those who have not cleared NET were being paid ₹750 per hour, which has now been slashed by 10% to ₹680.

Bengaluru City University has now mandated that even part-time guest faculty members have to stay on the campus from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
FILE PHOTO

Every year, the university appoints guest faculty members in January, when most of them already teaching renew their contracts for another year. This year too, over 100 guest faculty members have been appointed to various departments after an application and interview process. However, many were in for a shock when they saw the remuneration was slashed. Not only that, many guest lecturers also saw their teaching hours also being slashed, which impacts their pay.

Several guest lecturers have opposed the move by the university. "The cut in remuneration is unethical. Not only is my remuneration cut by nearly 40%, my teaching hours have come down from 12 to 16 hours a week to nine hours a week," a guest lecturer who also holds a PhD said.

Teaching hours cut

Another guest lecturer said teaching hours were cut for most of them and some were allocated only four hours a week, but everyone, even part-time guest faculty members are mandated to stay on the campus through the working hours. "This not only slashes our remuneration, but also makes it impossible to take up teaching at other colleges to sustain ourselves. How does the university expect us to survive the inflation?," he questioned.

However, the university administration has defended the decision.

"We have adopted the State government remuneration system for guest faculty members and this has been approved by the Syndicate. However, we will try to relax the rule that even part-time guest lecturers have to stay on the campus through the day," said Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor, Bengaluru City University.

A senior university official said the pay cut was made to ensure there was no disparity between guest faculty members teaching for more hours and those teaching for fewer hours.

"According to UGC rules, a PhD holder guest faculty can earn a maximum of ₹49,920 and a non-PhD holder ₹43,520 a month. Even those who were teaching for more hours earned as much as those who were teaching for fewer hours. We have now streamlined the payment system as per the norms," the official said.

Republic Day to be celebrated at Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister R. Ashok has ordered that the Assistant Commissioner will hoist the national flag

After hoisting the national flag on Independence Day at Idgah Maidan at Chamarajpet, the State government is all set to organise the Republic Day ceremony at the venue. Member of Parliament from Bengaluru Central P.C. Mohan said the Bengaluru Urban district administration will organise a flag-hoisting ceremony as per the protocol. On Independence Day, the Assistant Commissioner had hoisted the flag in the presence of the MP, local MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, and others amid tight security.

Meanwhile, the Chamarajpet Nagarikara Okkuta Vedkie had earlier approached the authorities seeking permission to organise the event. An office-bearer of the vedike said, "We requested authorities to either allow us to organise the event or they themselves hold the ceremony on the ground. We got the information that the administration is conducting the event."

Meeting

Mr. Mohan told *The Hindu* that the Deputy Commissioner would convene a meeting in a day or two on conducting the ceremony. "The district administration will hold a flag hoisting ceremony. The officer in charge will hoist the flag as it was done on Independence Day." Revenue Minister R. Ashok has ordered that the Assistant Commissioner will hoist the flag on January 26 at the Idgah Maidan.

Following a dispute over the ownership of the grounds between the BBMP and wakf board, the land is now in the custody of the Revenue Department. The department hoisted the national flag on Independence Day, allowed a one-day Ganesha festival at the grounds and is now all set to hoist the tricolour again on Republic Day.

From Page One

11-year-old boy killed in leopard attack in T. Narsipur taluk

Combing had resumed in the area to trap the leopard and about 130 staff had been pressed for the operation while officials in charge of the Elephant Task Force had also been deployed to provide reinforcement, she added.

Additional Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Kumar Pushkar said as many as 21 cages had been placed at strategic locations while thermal drone was being used to track the movement of the leopard during night.

In addition, 40 camera traps had also been installed in a bid to capture the leopard's image and establish its identity.

Ideal habitat

Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra, who held a meeting with senior officials of the Forest Department, said that apart from measures to track and capture the leopard, he had also instructed the jurisdictional sugar factory to complete sugarcane harvesting within 15 days. He said the entire swathe of land around the village had standing sugarcane crop which provided an ideal habitat for leopards.

In addition, an order would be issued to absentee landlords and farm owners across the taluk to clear their land of shrub vegetation. There was a 40-acre farmland which was not tended and was overgrown with vegetation and the boy's body was found there, reinforcing suspicion that the leopard had found a sanctuary in the place.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that ban order from 6 p.m. to dawn across T.Narsipur was being contemplated as a precautionary measure till the leopard was captured.

There was a massive protest near the T. Narsipur bridge by people of the area, expressing their ire against repeated human deaths owing to conflict with leopards. Meanwhile, the body of Jayanth was handed over to his parents after post-mortem.

JLR to come up on Sasihithlu beach and in Chincholi

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The resort on Sasihithlu beach is expected to have 10 cottages

Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) plans to set up two more properties in the coastal region and north Karnataka region in 2024. The properties will come up on Sasihithlu beach near Mangaluru and at Chincholi in Kalaburagi district. Water sports will be the main attraction at both the places, officials said.

JLR has 27 properties in Karnataka, which are known for their luxury rooms and activity-based itineraries.

The resort on Sasihithlu beach is expected to have 10 cottages while over 20 rooms are expected to come up in Chincholi. As of now, JLR has only one property in the north Karnataka region, in Bidar.

JLR has a reputation for having higher tariffs, which officials attribute to their safari-based itineraries. The tariff includes entry fee to the forest, expenses of naturalists, drivers and other such human resources. However, at the new properties, JLR plans to also offer exclusive activities to its guests.

"There will be a surfing school on Sasihithlu beach along with the resort offering exclusive activities for the guests. In Chincholi, along with a wolf sanctuary, there is also potential for trekking and water sports close to Chandrampalli dam. Guests can also be taken to a small tree park, which belongs to the Forest Department," said Manoj Kumar, managing director, JLR.

JLR recently took over a 21-room property at Kemmangundi from the Horticulture Department. The property has been reporting 96% occupancy. JLR is in the process of renovating the property. Apart from increasing the total number of rooms to 40, Hebbe Falls and a trek to Z Point will be promoted extensively.

"We have identified a few other properties, but we do not make so much money to develop them. But every year, we want to take up one or two properties for development, according to our requirements," Mr. Manoj Kumar added.

Pakistani girl staying illegally in city arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bellandur police have arrested a 19-year-old Pakistani girl, who allegedly forged her identity to stay in the city illegally. The arrested, identified as Iqra Jeevani, married a 25-year-old security guard from Uttar Pradesh, whom she met through a dating app a few months ago, and entered India through the porous India-Nepal border, the police said.

The guard, Mulayam Singh Yadav, befriended Iqra through the app and fell in love with her, and the duo decided to get married, sources said. He called her to Nepal a few months ago where they got married. The couple came to India by crossing the India-Nepal border to reach Birganj near Bihar and reached Patna.

The accused later reached Bengaluru and stayed in a rented house near Ayyappa temple at Junnasandra were Mulayam started working as security guard since September 2022.

Mulayam even got an Aadhaar card done for Iqra after changing her name to Rava Yadav and applied for an Indian passport.

The scam came to light when Central intelligence agencies came across Iqra who was trying to contact her family members back in Pakistan and alerted the State intelligence. The police verified the details before swooping down on the house and arresting Mulayam and Iqra.

Iqra was later handed over to FRRO officials who remanded her to a state home for women.

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INVITING e-TENDER

Contract Name	Tender cum Auction for Licensing of Commercial Warehouse Space at Wimco Nagar Depot Development
Contract No	CMRL/BD-Wimco Nagar Depot /505/1/2022
Documents downloaded from	23.01.2023 to 03.03.2023 upto 17.00 hrs through e- tendering website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	07.02.2023 on 11.30 hrs at MetroS - Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.
Due Date of Bid Submission	03.03.2023 upto 17.00 hours (IST)
Date of Bid Opening	04.03.2023 at 17.05 hours (IST)

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Any Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers.

Tender inviting Authority :
Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited,
MetroS - Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.
www.chennaimetrorail.org. E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in

Chief General Manager, (P&BD)
DIPR/398/TENDER/2023
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F- /22-23/11195-97 Date :20.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No. **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/2022-23/EPR-59 Dtd: 20.01.2023** for replacement of age old deteriorated 66kV C&R Panels of 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV Station Rajarajeshawari Nagar Substation in TL&SS Division Subramanyapura pertains to BMAZ South Circle, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipment's including supply of 66kV C&R panels and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipment's, testing and commissioning.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.01.2023.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMIT G Dengra, S/o Govind Dengra 30 years R/a No.2A, Flat No. 201, Opal Residency, 1st E Main, Hebbal Mill Road, Ganganagar, Bangalore - 560032 have changed my name from Sumit to Sumit G Dengra vide affidavit dated 22-09-2022 before Notary M.Venkataraman, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 3rd ADDITONAL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT TUMAKURU
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 237/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007
And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICT RAPG Division, Classic Arcade, 1st floor, KS Rao Road, Beside City Centre, Tumkur ant represented POA holder and Manager
Mr. Rohith Ali M.
S/o. Ishratlh Ali. M, age: 24 yeas ...Plaintiff
And
Ms. Poornima K K ...Defendant
Summons to the defendant by way of paper publicaon
To,
DEFENDANT :
Ms. Poornima K.K.
Aged about 33 years
Daughter of Krisnappa
Residing at Kolala,
Daddeghatta Hobli, Near Ramdev templekodagihalli post., Turuvekere, Tumkur District- 572227
Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,76,000/- (Ruppes Five Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand only) together with interest at the rate 10.25% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on 16th day of Feb., 2023 at 11.00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 16th day of January, 2023.
By Order of the Court
Siresthedhar.
Prl Senior Civil Judge Court
Tumakuru
Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. Anees Ahamed,
B.M. Kushalappa,
T.N. Ajay
Advocate.
No. 4(10/2), West Park Road
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001

IN THE COURT OF THE 3rd ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT TUMAKURU
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 248/2022
BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LTD.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007
And having its Branch Office at ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI RAPG Division Classic Arcade, 1st Floor, KS Rao Road, Beside City Center, Tumakur And represented POA holder and Manager,
Mr. Rohith Ali M.
S/o. Ishrath Ali M.,
Age 24 years ...PLAINTIFF
AND
Mr. Sidaramaiah ...DEFENDANT
Summons to the defendant by way of Paper Publication
Defendant
Mr. Sidaramaiah
Aged about 53 years
Son of Siddananjappa
Residing at Mattikere,
Bettadahalli, Near BSNL Tower, Tumakuru Dist- 572222
Whereas the plaintiff above named has fild a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,31,905/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five Only) together with interest at the rate 18% P.A. from date of due to till the date of Realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader on the 16th day of February, 2023 at 11:00 AM to show cause against the suit and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 16th day of January, 2023.
By order of the court
Siresthedhar
Prl Senior Civil Judge Court
Tumakuru
Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. Anees Ahamed,
B.M. Kushalappa,
T.N. Ajay
Advocate
No. 4, (10/2), West Park Road
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDL. HON'BLE CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BENGALURU [CH-74]
O.S. No. 25183/2021
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LTD.
Having its branch office at 4/10, Mythree Tower Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road, Bangalore- 560 068
And represented by its Collection Manager
Mr. Pramod G. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Vasantha Kumar ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
MR. VASANTHA KUMAR M.
S/o. Gopal Moolakaseema,
Aged about 36 years, R/at No. 37, 2nd Cross, 18th Main, 3rd Floor, Narayanagowda Layout, Tavarekere, Bangalore- 560029
And also at
H.No.25-450-2-B-155, Y.S.R. Nagar, Nandyal, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh- 518501
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.4,96,163.44 as on 29/01/2021 along with interest 24% P.A. and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Mayo hall at Bangalore (CH-74) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 28-02-2023 at 11.00 AM, take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this 19th day of January, 2023.
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall Unit,
Bangalore'
Advocate For Plaintiff
Anavaya Law,
Advocates and
Consultants, 1st Floor,
Indian Express Building
No.1, Queens Road,
Bangalore, 560001.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH- 38)
O.S. NO. 693 of 2021
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007
And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C Wing, Mittal Tower, MG Road, Bangalore- 560 001
...Plaintiff
And
Mr. WILLIAM PAUL ERRAM ...Defendant
Summons to Defendant U/o V Rule 20 of CPC
To,
DEFENDANT :
SRI. WILLIAM PAUL ERRAM
Aged about 41 years, Son of Paul Gilb Ert Samuel, R/at. No. 230/220, Villa No. 2C Rahat Garde, NIA Outer Ring Road Circle, White Field, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560066.
Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 & 2 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 15,78,042/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Seventey Eight Thousand And Forty Two Only) as on 26.09.2018 together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on 16th day of February, 2023 at 11.00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 12th day of January, 2023.
By the Order of the Court
Asst. Registrar City Civil Court,
Bangalore
Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No.4, 10/2, West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore 560001.

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Narendra Modi with
Hon'ble Prime Minister of Mauritius,
Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

Alignment through dense urban centres

Curepipe station cum commercial complex

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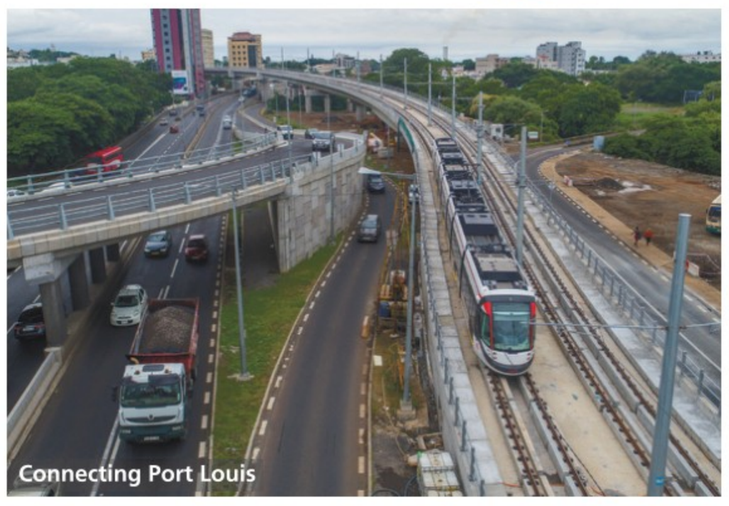

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2. **Phase 2** - Rose-Hill to Curepipe (13 Km) successfully connecting all towns of the island, commissioned in multiple phases, with final delivery on the 9th of October 2022. (Completed 3 months ahead of schedule)
3. **Phase 3** - Rose-Hill to Mahatma Gandhi Station in Reduit (3.3 Km). The first extension line connecting to Eastern surburbs through the Cybercity & the University Campus. (Completed 3 months ahead of schedule)

Project Highlights

- **29.3 Km** involving 4.6 Km of elevated section including viaducts and 7 bridges
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- Commuter friendly electronic ticketing and Information System
- Signaling System that integrates Metro Express with Road Traffic
- TETRA based Telecom Systems

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INBRIEF

Weavers will get additional support in Budget: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that the government will extend additional support to weavers in the ensuing Budget while the government has decided to purchase all the fabric woven by the weavers. "The help will be extended from purchase of raw materials to technology development. Order has been issued to buy all the produce of weavers and demand will be placed six months. It has been decided to purchase fabric for school uniform from the weavers' board," he said speaking at the Amrit Mahotsava of Karnataka State Togataveera Kshatriya Weavers' Association here.

'Save Bengaluru and Stop Corruption' campaign

The Congress will launch 'Save Bengaluru and Stop Corruption' campaign with a silent protest across 300 places in Bengaluru on Monday. The protest will be held at 51 metro stations, 26 flyovers, and 200 traffic signals where Congress workers will hold placards.

Polls: BJP adopts 'development with microtargeting' approach to widen base

Strategists, who are well aware that no ruling party has been able to return to power in the last 37 years in the State, are trying to go the extra mile this time to overcome anti-incumbency through such strategies, while expressing optimism that this could be a political game changer for BJP

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

While a political debate is still raging on the possible impact of the Hindutva agenda being pursued by the Bharatiya Janata Party in its campaign for the forthcoming Assembly elections in Karnataka, the party has started adding new campaign strategies to its political arsenal.

The party has now decided to experiment with a strategy of "development with microtargeting" approach with respect to communities and areas. The recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the State during which he launched distribution of land titles to the Lambani community that comes under Scheduled Castes is one such example of the party's "development with microtargeting" approach.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to State during which he launched distribution of land titles to the Lambani community is one such example of the party's approach. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It had become difficult for the Lambani community to get loans on properties located in their Tandas (traditional settlements) while the local civic authorities too were facing it tricky to undertake civic infrastructure development of Tandas as they were revenue villages without titles.

The party's grassroots level cadre such as booth committees and page pramukhs would take over from here to bring the community closer to the party, sources said.

According to sources in the party central unit, this is an effort to microtarget this nomadic community in Karnataka that accounts for the second largest chunk of their population in the country. "More such measures will be in the offing ahead of the polls as such steps would go a long way in widening our political influence," sources noted, while expressing optimism that such things could be a political game changer for the party in the next polls.

Anti-incumbency

The BJP strategists, who are well aware of Karnataka's poll history that shows that no ruling party has been able to return to power in the last 37 years, are trying to go the extra mile this time to overcome anti-incumbency through such strategies. Also, the party's strategists are keen to tackle the party's perennial problem of falling short by a few seats to reach the simple majority mark. Hence they have reportedly adopted multiple strategies for different areas and communities this time to make political inroads into new areas and also consolidate the party's political grip in its strong-holds.

Intensive approach

As part of such strategies, the party is learnt to have identified three districts of Bengaluru, Belagavi, and Bidar - which together account for 52 of the total 224 Assembly seats - for a focused and intensive approach. The party think tank is of the view that the party has the potential to improve its tally in these districts if there is an intensive approach, sources in the BJP said.

'Operation Kamala'

Similarly, the BJP has already made known its intentions of making political inroads into the Vokkaliga heartland of Old Mysore Region this time. As part of these efforts, the party is said to have commenced the process of identifying a few prominent local leaders from its political rivals for wooing into its organisation. The party central leadership is believed to be of the view that it is better to try out 'Operation Kamala' (codename for wooing leaders from other parties) before the polls rather than waiting for the process till the poll results are out.

Centre did not ban SDPI to divide votes: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking at the Praja Dhwani Yatra in Udupi on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Sunday that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government did not ban the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) with an intention to divide votes.

Addressing the Praja Dhwani Yatra of the Congress in Udupi, Mr. Siddaramaiah likened the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the SDPI to the BJP. He said that the Union government banned only the PFI leaving its political wing SDPI out of the ban to ensure that the votes get divided.

Mr. Siddaramaiah claimed that the Congress government led by him had not released any PFI or SDPI activist involved in criminal activities or communal violence from jail as claimed by the BJP leaders. The BJP was making baseless allegations in this regard, he said.

Claiming that the Congress was the only secular party in the country, the former Chief Minister said that Nathuram Godse who killed Mahatma Gandhi was the first terrorist. Congress leaders Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were victims of terrorism, he added. The Congress leader said that while Hindus believed in humanity, the supporters of Hindutva opposed it. The RSS and the BJP, which promoted Hindutva, did not believe in the Constitution, he alleged.

Hindutva forces

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that youth in the coastal belt should not fall prey to the communal designs of the BJP and the RSS. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is the founder of Hindutva. The BJP and the RSS revered Godse and Savarkar, he said.

"Savarkar wrote apology letters to the then British administration five times from jail. He got monthly pension from the British administration," Mr. Siddaramaiah added.

"I appeal to the misguided youth in the coastal belt to not get lured by the designs of Hindutva forces," he said.

On Madhwaraj family

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said the Congress made Pramod Madhwaraj, former Udupi MLA and former Congress Minister – who quit the party to join the BJP last year – as a Minister though he was a first-time MLA.

The Congress had also made his mother Manorama Madhwaraj and his father Madhwaraj as Ministers when they were with the party. "What more could Congress do for them? Notwithstanding it, Mr. Pramod Madhwaraj quit the Congress," he said.

The voters of Udupi should defeat him in case if he contests any election next time, Mr. Shivakumar said.

High command intervenes in row over alleged offer to defeat Congress

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress high command is learnt to have stepped in to douse the controversial statement made by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A. Revanth Reddy, who claimed that Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had tried to influence Congress leaders in Karnataka to defeat Congress in identified Assembly constituencies in the ensuing Karnataka Assembly elections.

While Mr. Reddy's statement recently raised eyebrows in political circles here, party sources on Sunday said that the top leadership, including K.C. Venugopal and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala, have spoken to both Mr. Reddy and former Minister and MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, whose name has been dragged into the controversy. "Mr. Reddy has been asked to restrict himself to Telangana and abstain from commenting on Karnataka politics. He has been told that such comments could hurt the party prospects with elections to Assembly here a few months away," sources said.

Mr. Reddy had claimed that the Telangana Chief Minister had called a senior Congress leader from Karnataka and offered him ₹500 crore to ensure that the Congress was defeated in 30 identified seats. The Congress leader has been identified as Mr. Khan, who on Saturday acknowledged that he had met Mr. Rao, but refuted reports that politics had been discussed.

On his part, Mr. Khan is learnt to have informed the two central leaders beside Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar that he had met the Telangana Chief Minister over a personal issue. "Mr. Khan has told party leadership that the meeting was to discuss a land deal and not politics. He has conveyed that ₹500 crore to defeat Congress candidates did not come for discussion at all."

Both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have distanced themselves from Mr. Reddy's statement already.

Form panel to prepare law dictionary in Kannada: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with winners of the Kannada in Judiciary Award in Bengaluru on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday suggested formation of an experts' committee to prepare a law dictionary in Kannada.

"The dictionary should be prepared to enable further use of Kannada in judiciary. If appropriate words are formed, it will help the judges to use the words," the Chief Minister said after conferring Kannada in Judiciary Award for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, organised by the Kannada Development Authority.

The awards are given to judges, public prosecutors and lawyers for use of Kannada in judiciary.

> For several English words, there are no appropriate Kannada words. There is a need to have judgments in mother tongue.
>
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**
> Chief Minister

"For several English words, there are no appropriate Kannada words. There is a need to have judgments in mother tongue," he said.

Mr. Bommai said that problems are faced when proper translations of judgments in English are not available.

"Efforts should be made to provide translated versions of judgments and such translations should be sent to libraries in all courts, and this will help in providing justice. It is important for the administrators to have legal knowledge. Justice will be served if judgments reach the petitioners. Kannada should be available in higher judiciary," he said.

'Training necessary'

He said that training is necessary to understand the difference between judgments and views, and if democracy is standing on a firm ground in the country it is because of faith in judiciary.

"Foreign investors are coming here because international level judiciary is present here. Judiciary has helped in socio-economic and political development of the country. Judiciary has also contributed for the stability of the country," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Flight of fancy?

Politicians often make tall claims about projects being implemented or proposed. In one such instance, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari recently exuded confidence that once the under-construction Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway is opened for traffic, there will be no flight between the two cities.

The Minister, who inspected the stretch – arriving in a chopper and landing on the road – assured that the new expressway will reduce travel time from 5 to 2.15 hours between the two cities.

Replying to a question on benefits of the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, the Minister said, "I am giving you the guarantee that by March 2024, there will be no flights between Bengaluru and Chennai."

The Minister said that automated toll collection through number plate recognition will be introduced instead of constructing toll plazas.

He added that along with travel time, fuel consumption will be reduced drastically once the road is ready.

The expressway is designed to drive vehicles at a speed of 120 kmph. The NHAI is spending ₹17,000 crore to build the 262-km stretch.

SPG shows MP his way

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to attend a public meeting, Special Protection Group (SPG) ensures that there are two ways to approach the dais and two podiums, one exclusively for Mr. Modi and one for others.

Unaware of this rule, Umesh Jadhav, MP from Kalaburagi, attempted to breach the protocol at a public meeting organised by the State government at Malkhed in Kalaburagi district on Thursday. When Mr. Modi was leaving from the designated route, after his speech, Mr. Jadhav tried to follow him, only to be sternly stopped by SPG personnel.

A visibly embarrassed Mr. Jadhav quickly looked around to see if any other guests or the audience had noticed his faux pas, and then turned back and followed the others. He had to stand at the tail-end of the queue and wait for his turn to leave.

Rhetoric all the way

After former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council B.K. Hariprasad *(in picture)* too said recently that corrupt Ministers of the BJP government would be sent to jail if the Congress is elected to power. Already Home Minister Araga Jnanendra had visited Parappana Agrahara to inspect facilities available at the Jail, the Congress MLC said, adding that "only 90 days are left for the BJP government." Interestingly, ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa too issued a statement that "corrupt Congress Ministers in the Siddaramaiah government will be sent to jail within 48 hours" when BJP comes to power. Perhaps voters are now wise enough not to fall for such rhetoric.

Suchith Kidiyoor
Kumar Buradikatti
Nagesh Prabhu

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SRI V. SUBRAMANIAM, Retd. Divisional Officer, Mysuru & Bengaluru, 1st Anniversary. EVER IN OUR HEARTS Inserted by S.Bagyam, S.Sanjay, S.Ajay, Ambika, Renu, Arjun, Mira, Anna, Joey & Mali.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

M.A.GAJENDIRAN
DOB: 02.12.1952 - DOD: 23.01.2021
"Still in our minds and hearts"
Fondly remembered by
Wife, Son, Daughter &
M.P.M. Family members

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice IFB Nos.119/2022-23 to 141/2022-23 Dt.23.01.2023, 100/2022-23 Dt.30.11.2022 (2nd Call) & 101/2022-23 Dt.13.12.2022 (2nd Call)

Tender for total 25 Nos. of Works in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam under various category are invited through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	23.01.2023 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	06.02.2023 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time :	06.02.2023 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage (For IFB Nos.119):	06.02.2023 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: (For IFB Nos.120 to 141, 100 & 101 (2nd Call)):	06.02.2023 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage (For IFB Nos.120 to 127)	10.02.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage* (For IFB Nos.128 to 139 & 101 (2nd Call))	10.02.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage** (For IFB Nos.140,141 & 100 (2nd Call))	10.02.2023 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage (For IFB Nos.128 to 141, 100 & 101 (2nd call)):	10.02.2023 at 3:00 PM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
* Commencement of Reverse Tendering
** Commencement of E Auction)
08394 - 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

Tribal killed in tiger attack in Nagarahole

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A tribal was killed in a tiger attack at Balle in D.B. Kuppe range of Nagarahole National Park on Sunday.

The victim aged around 19 was identified as Manju who was relieving himself when the tiger attacked him from the rear.

Senior officials of the Forest Department said the incident took place late in the afternoon and additional staff had been deployed to monitor the area.

Camera traps too will be installed to ascertain the tiger's identity and movements but it was unlikely that the tiger would be captured as the hamlet is inside the forest.

But sources said that elephants are being deployed to comb the area and the objective was to drive it deep within the forests away from the hamlet.

Dy. Tahsildar booked

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Jubilee Hills police have reportedly booked a Deputy Tahsildar for trespassing into a woman IAS officer's quarter at night.

The incident, as per reports, took place two days ago, and the police have registered a case against Anand Kumar Reddy and his friend-driver.

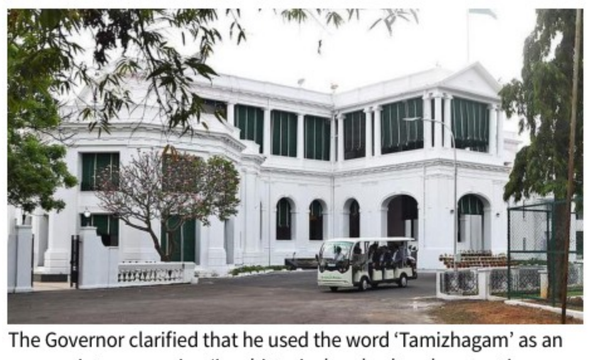
Mr. Reddy, a Deputy Tahsildar in Medchal-Malkajgiri district reportedly entered the villa in a gated accommodation and approached the senior officer in her private space. When the officer raised an alarm, the security personnel restrained them and handed him over to the police.

Raj Bhavan sends Republic Day invite; T.N. emblem, name reappear

Raj Bhavan's Pongal invite attracted criticism as it carried only the GoI's emblem as against the norm of carrying GoTN's emblem. The Tamil part of the invitation was criticised for using the word "Tamizhaga" instead of Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The official invite sent by the Tamil Nadu Governor's office for this year's Republic Day has carried the emblem of Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and the nomenclature 'Tamil Nadu' [in the Tamil text]. This is in contrast to the Government of India's (GoI) emblem carried in its invite sent earlier this month for Pongal celebrations.



The Governor clarified that he used the word 'Tamizhagam' as an appropriate expression 'in a historical and cultural context.'

The Raj Bhavan's Pongal invite attracted criticism as it carried only the GoI's emblem as against the norm of carrying GoTN's emblem. The Tamil part of the invitation was criticised for using the word "Tamizhaga" instead of Tamil Nadu in the Governor's title. However, the invite for Republic Day has used the word "Tamil Nadu" in both English and Tamil.

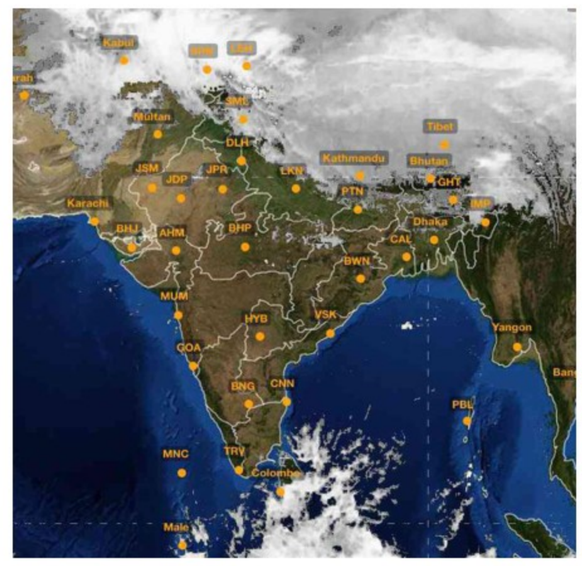
The criticisms on the Pongal invitation came against the backdrop of Governor R.N. Ravi stating that he deemed the name "Tamizhagam" more appropriate than "Tamil Nadu" at a function on January 4. However, he recently clarified that he used the word "Tamizhagam" as an appropriate expression "in a historical and cultural context", and did not suggest changing the name of the State.

The change in the emblem was noticed in banners, used as backdrop in the two recent events held in the Raj Bhavan. During the Governor's interaction on January 10 with a group of candidates awaiting the Union Public Service Commission's interview, the banner had the emblem of GoI.

In contrast, the banner at his interaction with a group of IAS officer trainees on Saturday had the emblem of GoTN.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense Fog likely at isolated places over Odisha. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Squally wind likely over Southwest Bay of Bengal and along Sri Lanka coast

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.6	10.5	Kozhikode	—	33.6	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	27.3	9.3	Kurnool	—	31.7	18.0
Aizawl	—	25.6	5.6	Lucknow	—	24.3	11.2
Allahabad	—	25.1	13.0	Madurai	—	34.2	22.5
Bengaluru	—	26.4	15.2	Mangaluru	—	32.4	21.1
Bhopal	—	—	13.6	Mumbai	—	28.8	17.0
Bhubaneswar	—	28.5	18.5	Mysuru	—	30.6	11.3
Chandigarh	—	22.5	6.6	New Delhi	—	22.2	7.2
Chennai	—	30.2	22.5	Patna	—	—	11.2
Coimbatore	—	29.8	20.0	Port Blair	—	30.2	25.0
Dehradun	—	22.9	7.0	Puducherry	—	31.1	20.6
Gangtok	—	13.4	4.8	Pune	—	31.0	14.0
Goa	—	33.0	19.4	Raipur	—	30.8	13.8
Guwahati	—	25.7	10.2	Ranchi	—	27.6	14.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.8	4.3
Hyderabad	—	29.7	16.6	Shimla	—	13.8	4.8
Imphal	—	24.6	3.8	Srinagar	0.6	5.4	1.0
Jaipur	—	—	10.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5	23.0
Kochi	—	32.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	31.1	22.0
Kohima	—	16.4	4.6	Vijayawada	—	30.0	20.4
Kolkata	—	26.4	16.1	Visakhapatnam	—	29.5	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	...5	.20	...124	...129	
Bengaluru	.14	..40	.14	44	92	
Chennai	.21	..32	.49	...194	...124	
Delhi	...6	..52	.43	...444	...399	
Hyderabad	...1	..45	.34	...142	...150	
Kolkata	...5	..33	.95	...342	...237	
Lucknow	.12	..99	.24	...339	...436	
Mumbai	.17	176	...8	...336	...164	
Pune	116	171	111	...184	...123	
Visakhapatnam	...6	..42	.38	...272	...162	

Nil

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Rogue elephant PT-7 captured in a 'textbook operation' in Palakkad

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

A rogue tusker that terrorised Dhoni and neighbouring villages in Palakkad for months on end was finally captured and confined in a kraal on Sunday.

A 72-member forest team led by Chief Forest Veterinary Officer Arun Zachariah enslaved the wild beast codenamed PT-7 (Palakkad Tusker-7) in a textbook operation that lasted for eight hours.

Mission successful: The elephant PT-7 inside the the kraal at the forest office at Dhoni in Palakkad on Sunday. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Tranquilliser darting

Although the forest team had gone after PT-7 on Saturday, the elephant eluded them by retreating into an area inside the jungle with a steep terrain. The team resumed their operation at 4.30 a.m. on Sunday and caught the tusker by tranquilliser darting.

Dr. Zachariah darted the tusker around 7 a.m. by using an anaesthetic cocktail of Xylazine and Ketamine.

The tusker was then brought to the Dhoni forest camp and confined in a kraal with the help of the three kumki elephants.

People of Dhoni were jubilant as their "enemy" was finally captured after repeated pleas and agitations. The PT-7 had raided farmlands and residential areas frequently in the past several months.

Kerala Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran congratulated the officials on capturing PT-7.

The Forest department took the decision to capture and tame PT-7 following pressure from the people. According to forest officials, the 20-year-old tusker had remained outside the forest more than 180 days in the past one year and destroyed farmlands at several areas. PT-7 was suspected to have been the elephant that trampled a 60-year-old man to death while he was on a morning walk along with his friends at Dhoni in July last year.

"PT-7 was responsible for more than 90% of the elephant conflicts in the region," said Dr. Zachariah.

Although the Forest department had planned to capture PT-7 and translocate it to Wayanad, the idea was abandoned considering the risk involved in transporting the tusker under sedation.

Man hacked to death in broad daylight

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A man was hacked to death in broad daylight in the middle of the Jiyaguda-Puranapul road in Kulsumpura police limits here on Sunday.

In the incident, that took place in the evening hours when moderate traffic was moving, a person held the legs of the victim and two others attacked him with a machete and long-handle sickle. Motorists passing on the opposite side slowed down and captured the incident on cell phones. The suspects are yet to be identified.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE/AEE-1/F-35/22-23/3836-38 Date: 21.01.2023

(1) Bid Enq.No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/SCADANUMERICAL/EPR-362 Dtd:16.01.2023 for Supplying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 11kV SAS Compatible numerical line panel for 7 nos of feeder at 220/66/11kv R/S Dabaspet, TL & SS Nelamangala **ON TOTAL TURN KEY BASIS.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 32,75,068.00** and EMD amount: **Rs. 32,751.00.**

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE/AEE-1/F-35/22-23/4840-43 Date: 21.01.2023

(2) Bid Enq.No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/PIDTESTING/EPR-353/CALL-3 Dtd:21.01.2023 for conducting Live Line PID Testing/Scanning on age old 90KN Porcelain Suspension Disc Insulator strings & 120KN Porcelain Tension Disc Insulator strings of 220kV Nelamangala-Dabaspet-Kadur&Nelamangala-Nittur DC lines in TLM Jurisdiction, Nelamangala limits in TL&SS Divison Nelamangala pertains to Ramanagara Circle **ON TOTAL TURN KEY BASIS.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 4,86,750.00** and EMD: **Rs. 4,868/-.**

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/22-23/4832-35 Date: 21.01.2023

(3) Bid Enq.No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/Erection of 11kV SWGS and Associated works/EE(O)/AE(T)/22-23/EPR-354/Call-2 dated:17.01.2023 for the work of "**Combined Package for the following works on Partial Turn Key Basis:**

Work 1- Associated works with respect to commissioning of 11kV MCVCB panels of MEI make at 220/66/11kV Receiving station Sarjapura coming under TL&SS Division, Yerrandanahalli.

Work 2- Replacement of deteriorated 11kV annunciator Panel and individual 11kV annunciator units by new simplex panels at 66/11kV S/s Attibele.

Work 3- Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler for connecting bank-1A and Transformer-2 at 66/11kV S/s Anekal.

Work 4- Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler and adopter panel for coupling of 11kV Bank-1 and Bank-2 at 66/11kV S/s Jigani.

Work 5- Providing 1No. of 11kV Bus Coupler MCVCB for connecting Bank-2A and 3A at 220/66/11kV R/s Yerrandanahalli.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-38/22-23/4837-39 Date: 21.01.2023

(4) Bid Enq.No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/ERECTION OF 220kV BREAKER/EE(O)/AE(T)/22-23/EPR-355/Call-2 dated:17.01.2023 for the work of "Replacement of 220kV Mylasandra-3 line Circuit breakers at 220/66/11kV R/s Yerrandanahalli **on partial turnkey basis".**

The detailed notification regarding the above enquiries can be obtained by logging on KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.01.2023 at 16.30 hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Transmission(M),RMGC, KPTCL, 220/66/11 KV Vrushabhavati Station Premises, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560 026, Ph: 080-29620155.

In the matter of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and The Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 AND
In the Matter of Scheme of Arrangement Between Nuetech Solar Systems Private Limited ("Demerged Company") And Prakashnuetech Private Limited ("Resulting Company") AND Their Respective Shareholders And Creditors
CP (CAA) NO. 54/BB/2022

NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition under section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements, Amalgamations) Rules, 2016, was filed for sanction of the Scheme of Arrangement between Nuetech Solar Systems Private Limited ("Demerged Company")and Prakash nuetech Private Limited ("Resulting Company")on the 24/11/2022 and the said petition is fixed for hearing before Bengaluru bench of National Company Law Tribunal on 17.02.2023.Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should send to the petitioner/petitioner's authorised representative, notice of his/her intention, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his/her name and address, so as to reach the petitioner/petitioners' authorised representative not later than 'two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Sd/- Kanathuru Raju Surendra Kumar, Authorised Representative of Demerged Company

Sd/- KN Anusuya Devi, Authorised Representative of Resulting Company

Dated: 23/01/2023 | Place: Bangalore

E-TENDER NOTICE
The Indian Hotels Company Limited – Karnataka Region

Invite quotations from established suppliers for the supply of the following items on Annual Rate Contract basis from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024 for **Taj West End Bengaluru, Taj MG Road Bengaluru, Taj Yeshwantpur Bengaluru, Taj Bangalore Airport, Vivanta Bengaluru Residency Road, Vivanta Bengaluru Whitefield and TAJ SAT'S Air Catering Limited Bengaluru** of Karnataka for the below mentioned categories.

A) Indian Fruits, Indian Vegetables, English Vegetables, Imported vegetables, Provisions, Atta–Maida, Dry Fruits & Cashew nuts, Chats, Cut Vegetables, Coconut & tender Coconut, Grated coconut, Peeled items, Green Peas & Corn, Egg, Milk, Milk products, Bakery products, Fresh Chilled Mutton, Fresh Chilled Fish & Sea food, Fish Fillet Frozen, Pork Meat, Buffalo Meat, Ice cream, Fresh noodles & Wanton sheets, Vinegar, Exotic fruits, Frozen ready to eat items, Micro green, Saffron & Tofu.

B) Charcoal, Fresh flower, Dry Ice, Ice cubes & blocks

Vendors can registered through accessing the below link in order to obtain the registration forms/Tender forms. Quotes to be submitted online only, Print out or physical copies should not be submitted. E Tender online portal will be available from **23rd January, 2023 till 11th February 23** on the below mentioned credentials. For tender form allocation to those who aspire to apply should remit online Rs.1000.00 (non refundable) for obtaining the tender forms in each Category. Tender forms duly filled along with Quotations should be submitted online on or before **11th Feb, 2023**. All Tenderers proposing to apply should HAVE ALL THE MANDATORY LICENCES REQUIRED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AND SHOULD be compliant to FSSAI Act / Rules and Regulations as on date and APPLICABLE FROM TIME TO TIME.

Certification / labelling for all products & temperature for chilled and frozen items as per FSSAI standard is mandatory. HACCP / ISO certified vendors would be preferred.

Window for submitting the initial rates will be open till **12 am on 11th Feb 23**.

WE THE MANAGEMENT OF **"The Indian Hotels Company Limited – Karnataka Region"** RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT / REJECT THE QUOTATIONS.

Contact: Mr. Mohan Papanna
Email: mohan.papanna@tajhotels.com
Contact: 08066605627 / 08066604367 / 08066900233
Link for downloading Tender Documents & for participating E-Tender
https://etendering.tajhotels.com/bengaluru

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU
IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF **ELEMENT K INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** WITH **SKILLSOFT SOFTWARE SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS
CP (CAA) No. 49/BB/2022
C/w
CA (CAA) No. 02/BB/2022

ELEMENT K INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: **U72200KA2000PTC070271**
Registered Office:
#20, 2nd Floor
Uniworth Plaza
Sankey Road
Bengaluru - 560 020
... PETITIONER COMPANY NO: 1 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY NO. 1

SKILLSOFT SOFTWARE SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: **U80103KA2008PTC046382**
Registered Office:
#.20, 2nd Floor
Uniworth Plaza
Sankey Road
Bengaluru – 560 020
... PETITIONER COMPANY NO: 2 / TRANSFEREE COMPANYNO. 2

NOTICE

A Petition under Sections 230 and 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanctioning the Scheme of Amalgamation of Element K India Private Limited (Transferor Company) with Skillsoft Software Services India Private Limited (Transferee Company) and their respective shareholders was presented by the Petitioner Companies on 14.11.2022 and the said Petition came up for admission on 21.12.2022 and is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on 22.02.2023. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's advocate at the address mentioned below, notice of such intention, in writing, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his/her full name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's Advocate, not later than two (2) days before the date fixed for hearing of the Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit, shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same, on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Date : 23-01-2023
Place : Bengaluru

SAJI P JOHN
SPJ Legal, Advocates
Unit no 306, 3rd Floor, #30
Prestige Meridian II,MG Road
Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: +91 98452 09798
Email:saji@spjlegal.com

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE CIRCLE, COIMBATORE
LUMPSUM CONTRACT TWO COVER SYSTEM - ITEM RATE TENDER SYSTEM
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No. NIT: 30/BC&M CIRCLE/CBE/ 2022-23,
Date: 13.01.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Two Cover System sealed Tenders viz., Pre-qualification Tender and Price Tender in separate covers both inserted in single cover will be received upto **3.00 pm** on **10.02.2023** from the PWD Registered Contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction & Maintenance Circle, Coimbatore – 641001 for the work of **"Construction of Additional Buildings for Strengthening of District Head Quarters Hospital at Gudalur in the Nilgiris District"** at his office and Tender will be opened on the same day at **3.30 P.M.**

All other details are available in the website **http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in.** If any changes/corrections etc., to the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer, PWD,
Buildings Construction & Maintenance Circle,
Coimbatore-1.

DIPR/378/TENDER/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No:EE/PWD/KD/TS-4/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 8176 Date: 21.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender for the 02 work under KKRDB Micro Head of account and 01 works under 4059 appendix-E Head of account through e-portal Indent No. 162514, 160606/CALL-2 and 141555, 2) Estimated Cost: **Min Rs, 81.06 Lakhs, Max. Rs, 587.98 Lakhs**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class I, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application fees as per e-procurement EMD Min Rs, 163000.00 Max. Rs, 882000.00, 5) Date of Pre-Bid meeting : **01/02/2023 (11.00 Hrs)**, 6) Last date for queries : **02/02/2023 (17.30 Hrs)**, 7) Last date for submission of tender: **04/02/2023 (16.00 Hrs)**, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **06/02/2023 (16.30 Hrs)**, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **08/02/2023 (16.30 Hrs)**, 10) Address for Enquiries & Clarifications: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1150/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka, Phone No: 08472-256767
Fax No: 08472-227527, hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/ 243/2022-23 Date: 20.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **"Supply of Medical Equipments to ESIC medical college and Hospital at Kalaburagi under MACRO fund of KKRDB",** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. **EMD is Rs.2,00,000/-**

Event & Date

1) Date of publishing the RFP Document : **20.01.2023**, 2) Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement Portal : **25.01.2023 at 17:30 hrs**, 3) Date/ Time/ Place of Pre-Proposal Conference (Online) : **30.01.2023 at 11:30 hrs**, 4) Last date and time for submission of Proposal (Proposal Due Date) : **02.02.2023 upto 16:00 hrs**, 5) Date and time for opening of Technical Proposal : **03.02.2023 at 16:30 hrs**, 6) Date and time for opening of Financial Proposal : **06.02.2023 at 11:30 hrs**

Sd/- Deputy Secretary
Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/1153/MC&A/2022-23

Necessary pushback

The Centre should stop seeing judicial appointments as rewards for loyalists

The Supreme Court collegium has done well to push back against the Union government's attempts to block the appointment of some advocates as High Court judges. The three-member collegium, which makes recommendations for High Court appointments, has reiterated its decision to elevate lawyers Saurabh Kirpal to the Delhi High Court, R. John Sathyan to the Madras High Court and Somasekhar Sundaresan to the Bombay High Court. As it dealt in detail with the objections raised by the Centre in each individual case, the motives behind the government's ongoing contestation with the judiciary over appointments to constitutional courts stand exposed. Communications between the collegium and the Centre offer a glimpse into the untenable nature of the government's objections to proposed appointees, making it abundantly clear how badly the current regime wants to control judicial appointments. If the objection based on a candidate's sexual orientation smacks of a medieval-minded ideological bias, the effort to stall the elevation of a couple of advocates based on their social media activity exposes a mindset that sees appointments to the higher judiciary as a system of spoils meant for political loyalists. As the collegium has pointed out, neither the sexual orientation of Mr. Kirpal nor the airing of political views by the other two advocates will impinge on their suitability or integrity.

The government appears to think that potential candidates for judicial appointments should not have political views of their own, or that a tendency to make their views or opinion known will amount to a possible bias in their functioning as judges. Nothing can disprove this more than the fact that there are other names – to which the government seems to have no objections – that are closely associated with political parties. Indeed, one can say that the history of judicial appointments is replete with instances of government law officers, who invariably enjoy the confidence of the political leadership at the Centre or the States, and lawyers who represent political leaders being offered positions on both the Supreme Court and High Court Benches. The objection based on sexual orientation is particularly appalling, as it is contrary to the constitutional position against discrimination based on sex or sexual preferences. The viewpoint that the collegium system of appointments is flawed as it is opaque and tends to reduce the zone of consideration is valid. However, the manner in which the current regime is seeking to filter out candidates who, it suspects, may not further its political agenda will surely give the impression that allowing any sort of government interference will pose a threat to judicial independence.

Election bugle

The BJP will continue its experiments with regional parties in the northeast

Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura in the northeastern region of India will elect new Assemblies in February. The Bharatiya Janata Party's stakes are the highest as it seeks to retain power in Tripura and continue to be a key partner of the main ruling entities in the other two States. The BJP is in alliance with Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma's National People's Party (NPP) in Meghalaya and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) in Nagaland. The Congress, once the main party in the northeast, is struggling, wiped out in Nagaland, trying to stay afloat in Tripura, and raided by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in Meghalaya. Regional parties in the northeast tend to align with the ruling party at the Centre, and the BJP has expanded its footprint in the region considerably in recent years. A BJP victory in 2018 ended more than two decades of Left Front rule in Tripura. However, being in power has not been easy; its first Chief Minister, Biplab Kumar Deb, was replaced with Manik Saha, a dental surgeon, in 2022, an effort to reverse the decline in the party's popularity. The emergence of the Tipra Motha, a regional party that swept the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council polls in April 2021 has changed the dynamics in 20 Assembly seats in its area. A Left-Congress alliance is also possible.

TMC leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been trying to gain a foothold in the northeast, but with limited success. In Meghalaya, 12 Congress MLAs defected to the TMC in 2021, but its stock has been depleting since. The TMC is viewed as a Bengali party in the State, where regional sentiments are strong. The party has some patches of influence in the Garo Hills of the State. In Nagaland, the BJP has announced a pre-poll alliance with its current partner the NDPP; in Meghalaya, the BJP and NPP are not only contesting separately but also calling each other names. Alliances in the State are usually forged after the elections. The NPP is facing accusations of corruption, and is being overly influenced by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP's pointsman for the northeast. As usual, indigenous groups in Nagaland have threatened to boycott the polls, pressing various demands. A demand for the creation of Frontier Nagaland being raised by the Konyak Union, an apex tribal body is a new flavour of the season. The BJP is likely to continue with its innovations in dealing with regionalism while the Opposition's capacity to sustain will be tested in these elections.

Changing politics, incompatible Governors

Valerian Rodrigues

is a former professor at Mangalore University and Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Governors are once again becoming public spectacles in many States, as seen in Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Delhi, and in a few others earlier. Three issues stand out in their grandstanding with the elected governments in the States in question.

First, these are States where non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governments are in power. Second, the contrarian interventions of Governors are in the name of the supposed powers of the Union or constitutional rectitude. And third, their disagreements spill out in the open, to the media, reinforcing a political divide. Recently, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, seems to have opened another front, i.e., defining the idea of Indian nationalism and imparting lessons to Tamil people. Fortunately, there are a few Governors, even under non-BJP regimes in States, who have shown the sagacity of sorting out issues with their respective governments without attempting to muddy the waters.

While there have been endless arguments on whether the Governor enjoys discretionary authority or not – and if he does, under what constitutional and legal provisions – they may not be able to clinch the argument on an issue as they do not necessarily rule out the contrarian stances. One of the examples of populist posturing is to play the blame game and accuse the other party of doing the same when it was in power. While such charges may be factually correct or close to the charge, bad precedents may not be good examples to imitate. These charges also do not take into account the great churning that the Indian polity has undergone over the years and the challenges that institutions confront to remain abreast with them.

Sea change in States

The arena of the relative autonomy of States underwent a decisive turn from the late 1980s without formally altering the constitutional frame very much. This transformation was manifest in the rise of new political parties with their focus on States, liberalisation of the economy, and greater devolution of economic responsibility to the States. States were made to realise that they could not pass on this responsibility somewhere else.

This shift of power and responsibility was also reflected in policy measures such as the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution authorising local governance, inclusion and devolution of powers; reforms initiated by P.V. Narasimha Rao-Manmohan Singh team on the economy; and judicial verdicts such as the Bommai case that mandated that the invocation of President's rule in States called for wider political consensus.

> While the constitutional reasoning that resulted in the institution of Governor may still hold good today, the metamorphosis in Indian politics calls for transformed gubernatorial functioning

Admittedly, the relative autonomy of States has enhanced their presence as well as responsibilities. This enhanced role of the States does not in any way challenge Union powers, but generally tends to complement and supplement the new challenges and opportunities that it faces. The fears of centripetal tendencies that marked the early years of Independence no more hold good as far as the broad expanses of India are concerned. Atal Bihari Vajpayee detected this shift early and made a remarkable attempt at coalition building (1999-2004) that reflected much sensitivity to the new role that States were called upon to play.

This initiative was also an acceptance of strong regional leaderships in general and regional parties in particular. Strong States were not seen as an affront to national unity but the latter itself was conceptualised as being forged through robust regional bonds. In fact, Vajpayee's political initiative jolted the Congress party from its focus on a centralised polity predisposing it to pre-poll coalitions at its Pachmarhi (1998) and later Shimla conclaves.

While the rise of the BJP and its shift to Hindutva as its ideological plank from 2014 onwards have affected the re-articulation of Indian federalism, the groundswell that led to the appreciation of State autonomy continues to persist even today. Sound reasoning iterates, loud and clear, that States cannot be cordoned off within the boundaries of the fiat of the Centre any longer.

State leadership to the fore

Given the metamorphosis of politics that India has registered, State leadership, be it of the ruling party in the Centre or regional parties, is invariably called upon to assume greater initiative and responsibility. Its performance has a bearing not merely on the States concerned but on the nation as a whole. State-based initiatives have a cascading impact on the neighbouring States as well. If a regional party has performed well, the Centre should try and outshine it by promising to do better. Interestingly, India's constitutional frame – and particularly its interpretation by the judiciary hitherto – has been in synchrony with this shift in the political arena.

A reality check

In the changed context, Governors assuming that they know better than elected State leadership goes against a reality check, and may not even serve the interests of the ruling party at the Centre. If they invoke constitutional provisions in defence of their actions, such a reading often turns out to be a shibboleth.

While the constitutional reasoning that resulted in the institution of Governor in India may still hold good today, it calls for a re-orientation. As the constitutional head of the State, there are innumerable concerns, particularly the Directive Principles of State policy, that could be the frame of conversation of the Governor with his government. Such a conversation, however, needs to be in the form of an engagement with his government and the State legislature rather than meant to project him as an independent power centre. The changed context also calls for listening to and closely following public voices and deliberated reasoning in the State and elsewhere rather than harping on constitutional status. Moreover, as a link between his State and the Centre, a Governor brings the wider concerns and promises of the State to the attention of the Centre as well as the public at large, which partisan politics may tend to sidestep.

To be in tune with these demands, Governors should not merely have their ear to the ground but also be attuned to the embedded idea of the common good manifest in its institutions and public culture. In a country such as India it is not difficult to find such persons. It is handy to have in these positions elderly politicians who are surplus in the ruling dispensation or retired bureaucrats and public personnel who are subservient to their political masters. Although criticised for some of his administrative preferences and political views, one Governor who I can recall who measured up to the mark in the changed context was T.N. Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka (2002-07), during a difficult period of change of governments both in the State as well as at the Centre.

A reminder of the flaws in India's urbanisation policies

Tikender Singh Panwar

is a former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and an urban specialist

A report by the World Bank, released in November last year, on financing India's urban infrastructure needs, focuses on private investments ameliorating urban problems. The push to attract private capital, since the 1990s, followed by the urban reforms under the United Progressive Alliance I regime, the Smart City mission, and now this report, continues to plague India's policy paradigm in the urban sector.

So, has the reform process really been able to attract private capital to urban infrastructure?

After three decades of reforms, urban finance predominantly comes from the government. Of the finances needed to fund urban capital expenditures, 48%, 24% and 15% are derived from the central, State, and city governments, respectively. Public-private partnership projects contribute 3% and commercial debt 2%.

In the last few years, various reports have estimated a huge demand for funding urban infrastructure; for example, the Isher Judge Ahluwalia report says that by 2030, nearly ₹39.2 lakh crore would be required. Likewise, the 11th Plan puts forth estimates of ₹1,29,337 crore for four basic services, ₹1,32,590 crore for urban transport and ₹1,32,590 crore for housing. A McKinsey report on urbanisation has a figure of $1.2 trillion, or ₹90 lakh crore.

World Bank estimates

The World Bank estimates that nearly $840 billion (₹70 lakh crore) would be needed for investment in urban India to meet the growing demands of the population, and $55 billion would be required annually. The flagship programmes of the government, the Smart City mission, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), etc., are not more than ₹2 lakh crore (that too for a period of five years). So, how will such a gap between demand and supply be matched?

> A recent report on urban financing for India is another case of a top down approach that is over dependent on technocentric solutions and capital-intensive technologies

The core idea of the report and the solutions suggested include "improving the fiscal base and creditworthiness of the Indian cities. Cities must institute a buoyant revenue base and be able to recover the cost of providing its services". In simpler terms, it means increasing property taxes, user fees and service charges to name a few.

This report already points out that nearly 85% of government revenue is from the cities. This means that urban citizens are contributing large revenues even as the World Bank report's emphasis is on the levying of more burdens in the form of user charges on utilities, etc. But the point is even by enhancing the tax base, will it be sufficient to meet the rising demands of urban infrastructure in the cities?

The answer is that it will not.

Finding alternative paths

The basic problem with this report and other reports drawn up in a similar fashion is that they are made using a top to bottom approach, with too much of a focus on technocentric solutions using very high capital-intensive technologies.

For the urban context, plans must be made from below by engaging with the people and identifying their needs.

Empowering the city governments and the people at large is the second point. In the national task force that reviewed the 74th Constitutional Amendment, chaired by K.C. Sivaramakrishnan, many suggestions were made such as empowering the people, transferring subjects to the city governments, suggesting that 10% of the income-tax collected from cities be given back to them and ensuring that this corpus fund was utilised only for infrastructure building. This would ensure that city governments had an advantage in ensuring rapid transformation.

Another important aspect of urban infrastructure is linked to urban governance, which is in a shambles in most parts of the country. Regular elections should be held in cities and there must be empowerment through the transferring of the three Fs: finances, functions, and functionaries.

Cities primarily are run by parastatals and the city governments hardly have any role to play in the smooth functioning of such parastatals.

The World Bank in its report has stated in the report (page 69): "As an example, state-level management of urban water and sewerage functions may be devolved in a time-bound manner. An improved urban legal framework that includes a stable and certain fiscal transfer regime, accords financial powers to ULBs [urban local bodies] along with attendant rules/regulations... will determine the medium- to long-term scale of investment flows for urban infrastructure."

The Shimla example

However, the exact opposite is happening. The Shimla water story is an example. The Shimla water works was transformed into a single utility in 2016-17, called the Greater Shimla Water Supply and Sewage Circle (GSWSSC) under the Shimla Municipal Corporation. The Bank rendered help in the form of a soft loan, ensuring an adequate supply of water and proper distribution by the utility, but under the Shimla Municipal Corporation. However, in 2017-18, it changed the character of GSWSSC to a company and formed the Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited, now run under a board of directors, but outside the ambit of the municipality.

Such machinations shall not serve the purpose and will be perilous to the entire purpose of the urbanisation in India. The World Bank report is another reminder of the tragedy which Indian urbanisation is witnessing – "policy paralysis from the top".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Documentary on Gujarat

Maintenance of law and order is the duty of every government (Inside pages, "BBC documentary critical of Prime Minister blocked by I&B Ministry", January 22). But if any untoward events did not occur in Gujarat, one wonders why the government has gone to the extent of blocking the documentary which amounts to a confrontation with the United Kingdom. There are still many who await justice following the riots. The Bilkis Bano case is one such vivid example. The British government cannot be faulted as it had to address the concerns of some of its citizens of India origin (Inside pages, "British probe into Gujarat riots was to address concerns of our constituents: Straw", January 22).

Manoharan Muthuswamy,
Chennai

The Government of India has again shown that it cannot take criticism in its stride. it ought to realise that such actions highlight its level of insecurity. Documentaries that are taken down tend to be sought out more as people will try and gain access to them through other means.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The unflattering references to the top leader have come at an inopportune time for the ruling party with nine Assembly elections due this year. It is clear that the desperate steps are to ensure that his carefully nurtured image remains intact. While some leaders in the U.K. have rallied to the Indian leader's defence, the BBC has stuck to its guns, which in simple parlance could mean that it is factual. The documentary could well dent the leader's image abroad as and when it is available in other parts of the world.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

The BBC is one of the most reliable and fiercely independent news providers . Despite 10 Downing Street questioning the BBC's patriotism during the Falklands war, the news provider stood its ground. Also, Opposition leaders in India cannot be faulted for accusing the government of imposing censorship. It is pertinent to ask this question: would the government of the day block a BBC documentary or any other programme that portrayed an Indian Opposition leader or party in a bad light?

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

The documentary unnecessarily seeks to create ripples in Indian politics in what is a closed chapter. It is appalling that there are some agencies wanting to keep the Godhra incident alive.

K.V. Seetharamaiah,
Bengaluru

Population and policy

India should not adopt any knee-jerk policies with India set to surpass China as the most populous nation in 2023 ('FAQ' page, "Why is China's population shrinking?" January 22). Women in India are having fewer children than their mothers had and the notion that India should adopt something like China's former 'one- child policy' is misguided and will have disastrous consequences. It could lead to a range of social problems.
The trend in India is towards smaller families and no drastic intervention from the state is required.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

It's time for India's universities to join the world

Philip G. Altbach

is research professor and distinguished fellow, Centre for International Higher Education, Boston College, U.S.

With India assuming the G20 presidency, it is now time for it to join the world's academic community as a major player. Indians are well-known globally as top scientists and academics, university leaders, and key leaders in high tech, but little is known about the academic environment from which they have emerged. India's academic system is now the world's second largest. And, as articulated in the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, the country is actively pursuing reform and improvement.

Opening to the world means making India more visible on the global academic scene and also learning about, and implementing, best practices from abroad. The G20 leadership is an excellent opportunity to do both. Further, one of the priority areas in education during India's G20 presidency is 'Strengthening Research and Promoting Innovation through Richer Collaboration'. India is in a particularly advantageous position – the world sees India as an increasingly important economy and geopolitical player. India also plays an important role in higher education – mainly as an exporter of students and talent in many scientific fields – and especially in information technology and related fields. There is a growing interest abroad in linking with Indian universities and research institutes, not only because of untapped talent but also due to disengagement from China by some Western countries.

Unknown, complex system

India is not only the world's second largest academic system, but also one of the world's most complex and little understood academic environments. Its higher education sector is fragmented, inflexible with tight subject boundaries, and of uneven quality. The NEP's focus is on consolidation, with the goal of bringing flexibility and multi-disciplinary education and improving quality. While private sector colleges and universities will continue to fuel growth, high-quality government institutions such as the IITs and AIIMS are also expanding and improving, and will likely achieve good results if they are adequately funded and permitted to have appropriate autonomy.

India has set up the National Institutional Ranking Framework, which has helped fuel competition among institutions. India's global ranking in scientific publications improved from the seventh position in 2010 to the third in 2020. India ranks third in terms of the number of PhDs awarded in science and engineering. India's Global Innovation Index ranking has also improved significantly, from 81 in 2014 to 40 in 2022, although it lags significantly behind the U.S. and China.

Indian universities have not scored well in the global rankings. The highest-scoring Indian institution in the 2023 Times Higher Education ranking is the Indian Institute of Science, in the 251-300 range. Another 75 institutions are ranked lower. The best-known institutions globally are the IITs. These do not rank well because they are small, specialised schools and not comprehensive universities, but their quality is much better than their ranking scores. The recent announcement that IIT-Kharagpur will establish a branch campus in Malaysia will help. For India to catch up, both in the rankings and in reality, will take significant investment over a sustained period of time. In comparison, China over decades has invested billions of dollars to improve its top universities – and this shows in the rankings and in measures of scientific output.

Opening to the world means making India more visible on the global academic scene and also learning about, and implementing, best practices from abroad

Distinctiveness

There are elements of India's academic environment that are distinctive and worth highlighting to an international audience. These include the emergence of about a dozen top-quality non-profit private universities, mostly funded by philanthropically minded Indians. This elite sector is expanding and is focused on building an international 'brand' for Indian higher education. India uses English as the main language of science and higher education, which makes it much easier to interact with the rest of the world. India has more than 100 research laboratories in diverse areas sponsored by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and other Central government agencies. Some are outstanding in terms of their research contributions and their relationships with India's economy.

Exercising leadership

India's universities and its scientific prowess are an important part of a soft power strategy. The internationalisation initiatives outlined in the NEP is an important start. India's G20 leadership is also an excellent opportunity to exercise leadership. Two interesting initiatives have been suggested. One is a conference in India of leaders of universities in the G20 countries with the aim of acquainting them with India's academic opportunities. Another is the creation of a prestigious scholarship programme, similar to the Fulbright programme, that would provide top Indian students and faculty time in leading universities abroad and funding to bring top academic from abroad to India. China's version of this is the China Scholarship Council.

Indian universities, researchers, and academics also need to involve themselves in the global scientific community through participation in joint projects, international meetings, and the like. All this will take careful planning, sustained resources, support from the Central and State governments and an expanded international consciousness in the Indian academic community.

The sway of the seers

Wooing a caste 'math' is a way of making electoral inroads into a community

STATE OF PLAY

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
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It's election season in Karnataka. Political leaders are busy wooing seers of various religious maths associated with specific caste groups. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Bharatiya Janata Party national president J.P. Nadda, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and others have all been doing 'math rounds' in recent times. Sceptics caution that approval from a caste math does not necessarily translate into votes for the leader or party from that community as a whole. Nevertheless, these maths have emerged as one of the key ways of making electoral inroads into specific communities. Antagonising the maths seems to be out of question for any political party.

Over the last several months, the reservation matrix of Karnataka has been in a flux. The seers of various caste maths – Prasannanadapuri Swami of the Valmiki community, Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami of the Panchamasali-Lingayat community, Nirmalanandanatha Swami of the Vokkaligas and Niranjanandapuri Swami of the Kurubas, among others – have been leading agitations, or appealing to or setting deadlines for the government for a better share of the reservation pie. The government has announced a hike in reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which will benefit the Valmikis. It has also proposed a hike for Lingayats and Vokkaligas. But not everyone is happy. In fact, there is simmering discontent among the seers of various maths. For instance, Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami has led at least two agitations in Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's constituency Shiggaon. The Panchamasali agitation led by its seer seems to be shaking the carefully put-together vote bank of the Lingayats for the BJP.

Meanwhile, the BJP seems keen on wooing Nirmalanandanatha Swami of the powerful Adichunchanagiri math of the Vokkaligas, in order to make inroads into the community and the Old Mysore region, which has been the domain of the Janata Dal (Secular) and Congress parties so far. The BJP appears enthused by the seer's recent comparison of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with modern Bengaluru founder and Vokkaliga icon Kempegowda. However, even Mr. Gandhi visited Nirmalanandanatha Swami during the Karnataka leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

While the maths of the Brahmins and Lingayats are centuries old, other communities have formed their own spiritual centres to organise themselves in more recent times. Over the last four decades, several communities in the Other Backward Classes, SC and ST blocs, and even several sub-castes within other communities, have come up with their own maths. These have now emerged as 'non-partisan' promoters and adjudicators of communities' interests. The proliferation of maths and the fact that political parties are wooing them and recognising them as representatives of these various communities have only cemented the hold of these religious-caste institutions over the state's public life. M.M. Kalburgi, who was assassinated in 2015 allegedly by a Hindutva group, had described a math as a "Paryaya Sarkara" (a parallel government).

The power that maths wield in Karnataka's political landscape comes to the fore every now and then. For instance, BJP leaders initially defended the seer of the powerful Veerashaiva-Lingayat Murugha Math, who faced accusations of abusing minor girls in the hostel run by the math. Other parties shied away from even speaking on the issue. Though the seer has now been arrested, activists fighting for the victims allege that efforts are being made to derail the case.

In another instance, the State government recently held a roundtable of seers to decide on the contents of moral education in the State's schools. Two Brahmin math seers who attended it – Gangadharendra Saraswati Swami and Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swami – called for only "satvik" food to be served to children at schools. Vishwa Prasanna Tirtha Swami also sought a ban on meat being displayed in marketplaces. Several seers belonging to communities whose members eat non-vegetarian food did not object to this suggestion at the roundtable. Many of them also now participate in Virat Hindu Samaveshas, which are organised by the Sangh Parivar's affiliates. All these developments indicate how the proliferation of maths among subaltern communities is aiding Sanskritisation of several communities.

Post-COVID-19, math skills of students in south, west dipped most

The adverse impact of the pandemic on arithmetic ability was more pronounced among boys in southern and western India

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The recently released Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2022 shows that the ability of schoolchildren to carry out simple arithmetic calculations was poor in most of the southern, central and western States compared to the children in many northern and eastern States.

While this observation is true both for the pre- and post-pandemic periods, the school closures forced by COVID-19 widened the gap further – the arithmetic learning outcomes of students from the south and west were impacted more than the learning outcomes of students in other regions. Notably, despite the pandemic, the arithmetic ability of children in the central States – Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh – improved markedly, though from a lower base. Moreover, in the south and west, the adverse impact of the pandemic on arithmetic ability was more pronounced among boys than girls.

The ASER survey's test of arithmetic ability consisted of four tasks. The first task was to recognise numbers 1 to 9. Those who completed this were asked to recognise numbers 11 to 99. Those who completed both tasks were presented with subtraction problems. And those who passed were presented with division sums.

Chart 1 shows the share of students in Classes V and VIII who could carry out all the four tasks successfully. Each circle corresponds to a State, and India's figures are depicted using a plus sign. The farther a circle to the right, the higher the share of students who could carry out all the four tasks successfully.

Chart 2 shows the same for the year 2018.

Among the northern States, the share of such students in Class VIII was above the national average in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. Among the eastern States, Bihar's figure was much higher than the national average. On the other hand, except Andhra Pradesh, the share of such students was relatively low in the southern States. Among the western States, such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the share of Class VIII students who were able to complete all the tasks successfully was even lower than in the southern States.

The trend of northern States (except Jammu and Kashmir) leading, closely followed by the eastern States of Bihar and sometimes Jharkhand, the southern States (except Andhra Pradesh) middling and the central and western States near the bottom was also observed in the arithmetic performance of Class V students – with some exceptions. This trend was also true for 2018, as shown in **Chart 2**.

Chart 3 shows the percentage of Class VIII children who completed all four tasks in 2022 and the change in percentage points from 2018. The States above the 0 mark saw an increase in the share of children who completed the tasks – all the central and eastern States are part of this group. The States below the 0 mark saw a decrease – all the southern and western States are part of this group except Andhra Pradesh. This graph shows that the pandemic had a disproportionately higher adverse impact on the arithmetic ability of children in the southern and western States.

And among the southern and western States, the adverse impact was higher among boys than girls, as shown in **Chart 4**. The chart shows the change in the share of Class VIII students who could complete division in 2022 compared to 2018 (in percentage points). For instance, the change was 6.4 percentage points among girls in Kerala and 8.7 percentage points among boys.

Doing the math

The data for the charts are collated from the Annual Status of Education Report (Rural), published based on a survey conducted between September and November 2022

North East Northeast West Central South India

Chart 1 | The share of students in Class V and Class VIII who carried out all the four tasks successfully in **2022**

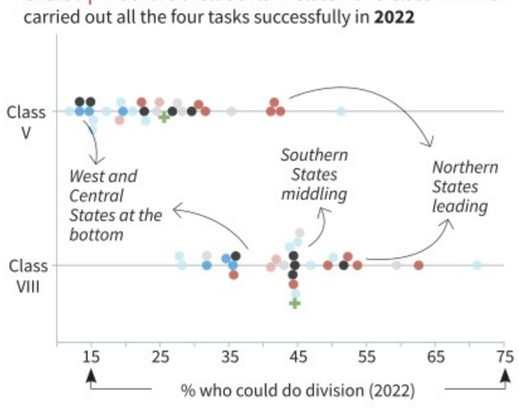

Class V
Class VIII
West and Central States at the bottom
Southern States middling
Northern States leading
15 25 35 45 55 65 75
% who could do division (2022)

Chart 2 | The share of students in Class V and Class VIII who carried out all the four tasks successfully in **2018**

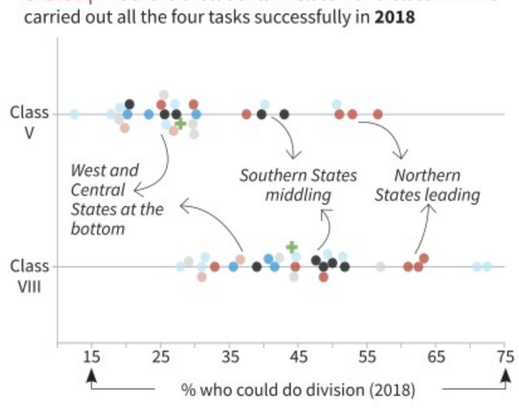

Class V
Class VIII
West and Central States at the bottom
Southern States middling
Northern States leading
15 25 35 45 55 65 75
% who could do division (2018)

Chart 3 | The % of Class VIII children who completed all four tasks in 2022 and the change in % points from 2018

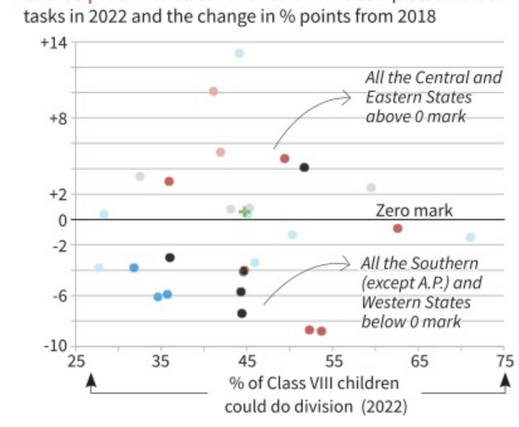
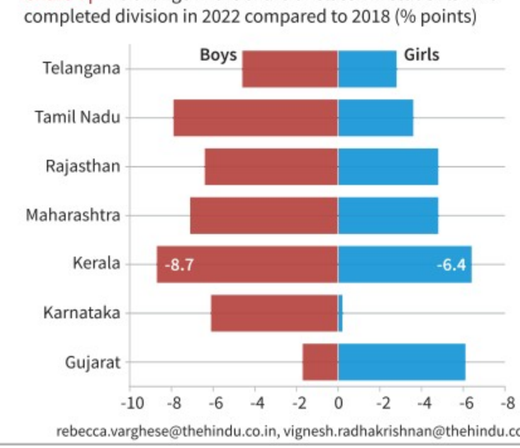


Chart 4 | The change in the share of Class VIII students who completed division in 2022 compared to 2018 (% points)



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1973

'New Wave' Indian films hailed by London critics

Bombay, Jan. 22: "New wave" films will soon brighten Indian movies' image abroad and open up a potential international market, according to the Film Finance Corporation Chairman, Mr. B.K. Karanjia. He told UNI yesterday that the low budget films of young artistes exhibited at the film festival now being held in London under the joint sponsorship of the Corporation and the National Film Theatre, London, had become popular. Mr. Karanjia, who returned from the festival, said the first ever international exposure of the "new wave" films had convinced movie critics that India could offer something other than the conventional song-dance formula. The critics including Miss Dilys Powell and members of several film societies had hailed that they could not believe that such films were being made in India, he added. Mr. Karanjia said, impressed by the movies, Mr. Charley Cooper of the contemporary films, London, who distributes Satyajit Ray's films in the United Kingdom suggested that an Indian film centre be set up in London to conduct similar festivals and explore marketing possibilities throughout western Europe. The proposal would soon be placed before the Corporation's board. He said the second in the series of the "image building" festivals would be opened in Paris on January 27. The third would be held in the German Democratic Republic.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1923

Indian labour for Ceylon

At the meeting of the Ceylon Legislative Council, on January 18, the Hon. Mr. E.R. Tambimuttu asked: – Will the Government be pleased to state the result of its negotiations with the Government of India on the labour question.

The reply: The Hon. Mr. B. Hornsburgh replied: – The Government of Ceylon is still in negotiation with the Government of India on the subject of the labour question. A draft notification containing the conditions under which the emigration of unskilled labour to Ceylon will be permitted was received a short time ago from the Government of India and was referred for their views to the various public bodies chiefly concerned. Replies have been received indicating that all these bodies consider the conditions acceptable, and a reply has been sent to the Government of India to this effect.

From Page One

Exim data revised, trade deficit narrows

September now marks the worst monthly trade deficit of $29.23 billion for India.

As per earlier data, July 2022 was reckoned to have the worst goods trade deficit on record of $30 billion, but its import bill has been subsequently scaled down sharply from $66.3 billion to a little short of $64 billion, while exports have been raised by $2.1 billion. Consequently, July's deficit is now pegged at just $25.6 billion, which was, in fact, lower than the deficit recorded over the next three months.

October and August 2022 recorded the second and third highest monthly deficits in merchandise trade at $27.4 billion and $26.8 billion, with the import bill for these months being revised up by $2.3 billion and almost $2 billion, respectively.

The steepest revision in export numbers has been made for August and November at $3.1 billion and $2.8 billion, respectively. As per preliminary estimates, exports in November had grown just 0.6% to $31.99 billion, but revised numbers signal a 9.6% year-on-year rise, with shipments worth $34.85 billion.

'Policy making affected'

"The trade numbers influence the current account deficit trajectory. Policy making to address this must be evidence-based, but if the data is going haywire, and not by a small margin, we have a problem," said noted trade economist Biswajit Dhar, who is a Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University. "A $3.5-billion discrepancy in import estimates for a month is not a small thing," he said.

Queries about the trade data revisions mailed to the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Friday did not elicit a response till late Sunday evening.

In a report on November's foreign trade data, rating firm ICRA also flagged the "large discrepancy between the monthly data on merchandise exports and the cumulative data for the same that accounts for revisions, both of which are released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry".

Widening gap

By November, the gap between preliminary export estimates for each month and the cumulative figure for the full year so far, stood at $8.6 billion, it said. This gap has now stretched to $11.6 billion after November's exports were also revised higher.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in an article on the state of the economy in its latest bulletin, has alluded to the corrections in trade numbers, while referring to the merchandise trade deficit reaching an all-time high of $83.5 billion and the current account deficit (CAD) rising to 4.4% of the GDP in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022-23.

"It is noteworthy, however, that the CAD for Q1 was revised down from 2.8% to 2.2% on account of downward adjustment in customs data. Similar adjustments may impinge on the CAD for Q2:2022-23 as customs data or imports are revised," the article said.

Incidentally, revised goods trade estimates for July to September included in the same bulletin peg the deficit for the second quarter lower at $81.69 billion.

Net exports' contribution

In its December bulletin, the central bank said that the net exports' contribution to aggregate demand in Q2 was negative as imports grew faster. Net exports were "the highest drag on aggregate demand from the external side since Q4 of 2012-13", it cautioned.

The RBI also noted that imports continued to decelerate and November's $55.9 billion import bill marked "a ten-month low". Subsequent data revisions put November's imports at 58.2 billion, which was the lowest in seven months.

NIA inspects blast site in Jammu; security beefed up for Republic Day, Yatra

Nature of blasts yet to be disclosed; joint meet of forces held to review internal security; civilian injured in Srinagar as militants hurl grenade; Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist held in south Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), along with the Army, on Sunday inspected the site of explosions in the Narwal area of Jammu that left nine people injured on Saturday.

Sources said the J&K Police were questioning the suspects. Security agencies were yet to disclose the nature of the blasts, which could be of improvised explosive devices, either triggered by a timer or used as a sticky bomb, they added.

Meanwhile, officials said security had been beefed up across J&K.

A review meeting was also held to further strengthen the security grid for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, and the ongoing march of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in J&K, as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra campaign.

No stopping: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leading the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra at Hiranagar Morh in Kathua on Sunday. The yatra will arrive in Jammu on Monday. NISSAR AHMAD

In the Valley, frisking of commuters and searches of vehicles, especially two-wheelers, have been increased, officials said. Fresh checkpoints have been set up across the Valley, especially in Srinagar, to thwart any movement of militants, officials said.

A joint meeting of the Army, the J&K Police, the CRPF, the BSF and intelligence agencies were held in Rajouri to review internal security in the wake of the recent militant attack that left seven civilians dead in Dangri.

In Srinagar, militants hurled a grenade towards a security installation on Sunday evening, which left a civilian, Ajaz Ahmed Deva from Sangam, injured.

In south Kashmir, the police arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist, active since 2017.

Nasir Ahmed Sher Gojri, alias Qasim Bhai, is from Hom Huna Nagbal, Shopian.

Cannot compromise on Rahul Gandhi's security: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

The Congress on Sunday said the Bharat Jodo Yatra will follow the directions of the security agencies as the security of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is of topmost concern. The statement comes as Jammu witnessed twin blasts on Saturday that left nine civilians injured.

"We are in touch with security agencies. Any suggestions from them will be followed. There can be no compromise when it comes to the security of Mr. Rahul Gandhi. His security is of topmost concern for us," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in Kathua, ahead of the yatra's arrival in Jammu on Monday.

He said the party's stand was clear on terrorism. "There should be no compromise in dealing with either the perpetrators or sponsors of terrorism," Mr. Ramesh said.

Several Congress leaders on Sunday said they were concerned about the safety and security of Mr. Gandhi after the twin explosions "as it raises a question mark on the security arrangements".

"We accept that the security agencies are fully alert and are doing their job satisfactorily, but claims of the government that terrorism has been finished falls flat in the wake of such incidents," a Jammu-based Congress leader said.

Article 370

In response to statements made by the BJP asking the Congress to clarify its stand on Article 370, Mr. Ramesh said, "Article 370 is a very serious issue. As of now, the bigger issue is restoration of democratic processes in J&K, when elections will be held and statehood restored. J&K has become an attached office of the Ministry of Home Affairs."

He said there was an "undeclared emergency in the country". "An undeclared emergency is more dangerous than a declared emergency. The BJP has ended the spirit of democracy in the country," he added.

Mr. Gandhi will address a rally in Jammu on Monday. He will celebrate Republic Day with locals in J&K's Banihal before heading for the Kashmir Valley. He will end the yatra in Srinagar on January 30.

Anti-*Pathaan* protest in Assam: Shah Rukh calls CM to flag issue

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Hours after he feigned ignorance about Shah Rukh Khan, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said he received a call from the Bollywood actor who expressed anxiety over a violent protest ahead of the screening of his latest film, *Pathaan*, at a cinema hall in Guwahati.

"Bollywood actor Shri @iamsrk called me and we talked today morning at 2 a.m. He expressed concern about an incident in Guwahati during the screening of his film. I assured him that it's the duty of the State govt. to maintain law & order. We'll enquire and ensure no such untoward incidents [happen]," Mr. Sarma said in a tweet.

Mr. Sarma had told journalists on Saturday that he neither knew who Shah Rukh Khan was nor anything about *Pathaan*.

"Who is Shah Rukh Khan? I don't know anything about him or his film," he said when asked if the government would take any action against the Bajrang Dal activists, who stormed a theatre in the Narengi area of the city on Friday, and allegedly set the film's posters on fire.

"I keep receiving calls from many Bollywood people. Shah Rukh Khan has not called me regarding the problem. But if he does, I will look into the matter. Action will be taken if law and order has been violated and a case filed," he said.

The Chief Minister also said that people should be more concerned about Assamese and not Hindi films.

'Personal pay' to address disparity between Brigadier, Major-General

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

To address the long-pending issue of reduced pay between the rank of Brigadier and Major-General, a 'personal pay' of ₹14,900 has been proposed to be added to the latter, it has been learnt.

Defence sources said the proposal was endorsed by the Defence Ministry's finance division, but the file has been pending with the Finance Ministry since January 2022. A legal process is also under way with several officers having approached the court.

In addition to other ranks, all officers up to the rank of Brigadier are entitled to a Military Service Pay (MSP) to the tune of ₹15,500, first approved in the Sixth Pay Commission, which stops once an individual is promoted to the rank of Major-General.

The pay of a Brigadier is ₹2.17 lakh and with MSP it becomes ₹2.33 lakh. For a Major-General, the pay is ₹2.18 lakh but there is no MSP. So, in effect a Major-General earns less pay than a Brigadier. To address this, a personal allowance of ₹14,900 was proposed to be added to the salary of Major-General and Lieutenant-General which does not fall in the basic pay and will bridge the difference, a defence source said.

Several officers in the rank of Major-General had gone to the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), and there are 13 judgments in favour of them. Of the 13, only three have been implemented – all in the Air Force. However, when the Defence Ministry is approached for their implementation, the assertion is that an order is being brought out on it but there has been no progress, officials in the know said.

Defence Ministry has endorsed the proposal, say sources.

In the case of Maj. Gen. D.N. Hasija and 68 others, the High Court of Punjab and Haryana have directions on February 9, 2022 to resolve the pay anomaly within six months which expired on August 8, 2022. This was also intimated to the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) on August 25, 2022.

Contempt of court proceedings were initiated by the petitioners and the next date of hearing is February 21, 2023. Compliance-cum-reply has been sought from the DMA by the court before the hearing date, officials stated.

MSP factor

The MSP is paid to service personnel for the unique hardship they face in the line of duty and was introduced in the Sixth Pay Commission. In the Seventh Pay Commission, the MSP was ₹5,200 for Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and ORs and ₹15,500 for officers from Lieutenant to the rank of Brigadier.

For Major-General, the MSP was rejected with the logic being that the retirement age of 58 is close to that of the civilian counterparts, which is 60.

Rijiju endorses former HC judge's view on SC

On January 20, the Supreme Court Collegium took the unprecedented step of making public the government's objection to some of its recommendations for judgeship.

These names included Saurabh Kirpal (Delhi High Court), whose gay status was objected to; Somasekhar Sundaresan (Bombay High Court) and John Sathyan (Madras High Court), who shared social media posts that were critical of the Narendra Modi government.

Rejecting the Law Ministry's objections, the Collegium reiterated five of its earlier recommendations, including the ones cited above, and urged the government to expeditiously clear their appointments.

PM's response

However, hours after the Law Minister's tweets, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter on Sunday to laud the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud for advocating the use of regional languages, and technology, in courts.

"At a recent function, the Hon'ble CJI Justice DY Chandrachud spoke of the need to work towards making SC judgments available in regional languages. He also suggested the use of technology for it. This is a laudatory thought, which will help many people, particularly youngsters," Mr. Modi tweeted.

"India has several languages, which add to our cultural vibrancy. The Central Government is undertaking numerous efforts to encourage Indian languages including giving the option of studying subjects like engineering and medicine in one's Matru Bhasha," the PM added.

U.S. missions in India to raise staff strength to speed up visa processing

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Promising to bring its visa staff across the U.S. Embassy and five consulates in India back up to full strength in the next few months, the U.S. on Sunday said it was launching a "surge" in staffing and a number of other measures to increase visa processing capacity across the country.

The statement came even as U.S. missions in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad clock up processing times of up to two years for a normal visitor visa for tourism or business (B1/B2). The embassy also said January 21 was the first of several Saturdays when visa offices would remain open across India.

Swift action: The U.S. Embassy said it will also extend the hours of operation. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Going extra mile

"Our consular teams across India are putting in the extra hours to meet the needs of international travellers and bring down wait times," said Mumbai Consular Chief John Ballard. "This is part of a mission-wide effort to find innovative solutions to facilitate travel to the United States," he added.

The embassy is also extending its hours of operation, expanding conditions to offer those who have previously been given visa "interview waivers" or process them through "remote interviews", and offering slots in other countries for Indians as third country nationals.

In addition, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Julie Stufft had revealed last November that applications from India were being adjudicated by U.S. consular officers in other countries including China, where there is not as much pressure on the visa officers.

"By this summer, the U.S. mission in India will be at full staffing, and we expect to be processing visas at levels from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic," the U.S. Embassy statement said.

According to the U.S. Embassy, the India mission released more than 2,50,000 additional B1/B2 appointments and adjudicated more than 8,00,000 non-immigrant visas in 2022. Despite all the measures, the U.S. State department estimates that the wait time for a visitor's visa interview in Delhi and the five Indian consulates is between 500-600 days, in contrast to European capitals where it is about 20 days, or Beijing where it is 34 days, or in south Asia, where an interview takes about 296 days in Islamabad and 394 days in Dhaka.

Arrest warrant against Oreva Group promoter

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Months after the collapse of a hanging bridge in Morbi, which led to the loss of at least 140 lives, the Gujarat Police on Sunday issued an arrest warrant against Jaysukh Patel, promoter of the local corporate Oreva Group, which had secured the contract to renovate, repair and operate the bridge.

The police also issued a lookout circular against Mr. Patel. Meanwhile, fearing his arrest, Mr. Patel moved a local court seeking anticipatory bail. The court deferred the hearing to February 1.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the tragedy had cited several lapses by the Oreva Group in the repair, maintenance and operation of the British-era bridge.

Earlier, four employees of the Group were arrested in connection with the case.

APPEAL

I am Sabitha aged 17 years, suffering from Relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukemia and require Chemotherapy & Radiation therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs.12,00,000/-**. Please donate and support me as my family is extremely poor and cannot afford this huge cost. I need your blessings. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** Donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Sabitha

As JD(U) has weakened, several leaders in touch with BJP, says Kushwaha

The party's Parliamentary Board chief is said to be unhappy with its decision to leave the NDA to form the *mahagatbandhan* govt. in Bihar; he is also said to be seeking the post of Deputy CM

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

A day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar commented that Janata Dal(U) Parliamentary Board chief Upendra Kushwaha had left the party twice or thrice earlier only to return, the MLC on Sunday said several top leaders of the ruling party were in touch with the BJP as it had weakened.

"The bigger the JD(U) leaders, the more they are in touch with the BJP leaders. The issue is that the JD (U) is getting weak and I am trying to make it strong," Mr. Kushwaha told pressmen at the Patna airport after returning from Delhi.

Mr. Kushwaha is said to be in touch with some State-level leaders of the BJP who visited him while he was recently admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi for a routine check-up.

Signs of difference: JD(U) leader Upendra Kushwaha addressing a press conference in Patna on January 7. ANI

A picture of BJP leaders Prem Ranjan Patel, Sanjay Tiger and Yogendra Paswan visiting him at the hospital had triggered speculation that he would be switching sides again. Asked what Mr. Kumar felt about his earlier defection, Mr. Kushwaha said, "Even his party had gone to the BJP as per its convenience."

"When I have to meet the Chief Minister, I do not need any medium for this... I can speak to him in minutes," Mr. Kushwaha said in response to Mr. Kumar's remark where he had asked Mr. Kushwaha to speak to him.

"I was admitted to a Delhi hospital but people did my post-mortem report here [in Patna]," he said.

Mr. Kushwaha is an old associate of Mr. Kumar and was made the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly in 2000, but parted ways in 2005 to join the Nationalist Congress Party. He returned to the JD(U) in 2010 and became a Rajya Sabha member. In 2013, he again quit the JD(U) and his membership of the Rajya Sabha.

He floated the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), which later became part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2014. The RLSP won three Lok Sabha seats. Mr. Kushwaha became the Minister of State for Human Resource. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the 2020 Assembly election, the RLSP drew a blank. He merged the RLSP with the JD(U) in March 2021. Mr. Kushwaha was made chairman of the JD(U)'s Parliamentary Board. He is currently an MLC.

The ambitious Mr. Kushwaha is said to be unhappy with his party's decision to come out of the NDA to form the *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) government in the State with the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Congress and other smaller parties. The buzz in the political circles is that Mr. Kushwaha is putting pressure on the party's top leadership to be made a Deputy Chief Minister along with Tejashwi Yadav. On Saturday, Mr. Kumar said that he could not gauge the other person's intention. He pointed to Mr. Kushwaha's changing sides in the past only to return.

Poll-bound Nagaland hit by defection after Meghalaya, Tripura

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Imkong Imchen quit the NDPP, citing personal reasons and joined the BJP, an ally in the State govt.

After Tripura and Meghalaya, election-bound Nagaland is facing the politics of defection.

Former Nagaland Minister Imkong L. Imchen resigned as MLA of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) less than a year after joining it. He has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a minor ally of the NDPP in the Nagaland government.

Mr. Imchen, who has represented the Koridang Assembly constituency since 2003, cited personal reasons in his resignation letter to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretary. The resignation is with effect from the forenoon of January 20. "I have joined the BJP because I have been impressed by the performance of the party under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Mr. Imchen won the Koridang seat four times as a Naga People's Front (NPF) candidate. He was among the 21 NPF legislators who merged with the NDPP in April 2022.

The NPF now has three MLAs left. Meghalaya has seen several MLAs defecting or quitting the House since November 2021. All of them changed party colours. The Congress lost all its 17 MLAs – 12 to the Trinamool Congress and five to the National People's Party (NPP), the BJP and the United Democratic Party.

Four Trinamool legislators later joined the NPP and the BJP. The NPP also lost a couple of MLAs.

In Tripura, three of the eight MLAs of the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) joined the TIPRA Motha headed by the State's royal scion, Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman. A BJP legislator also joined the TIPRA Motha.

Sudip Roy Barman and Ashish Saha quit as BJP legislators and joined the Congress while another BJP legislator Ashish Kumar Das was disqualified for "misconduct". Elections to the 60-member Tripura Assembly is on February 16. Meghalaya and Nagaland will go to the polls on February 27.

INBRIEF

Over ₹10 lakh unaccounted cash seized in Meghalaya

Authorities in poll-bound Meghalaya have seized unaccounted cash of over ₹10 lakh in a village in East Jaintia Hills district, officials said in Shillong on Sunday. The unaccounted cash was recovered from vehicles, coming from Assam, in three separate operations in the Sutnga-Saipung Assembly seat. "The district authorities have seized ₹10.72 lakh in cash. No one was arrested so far," Chief Electoral Officer F.R. Kharkongor said. East Jaintia Hills SP Jagpal Dhanoa said the "cash was seized from vehicles on Friday" as the occupants could not produce any valid document for carrying the liquid asset. PTI

Puri hopes oil firms will cut prices on recouping losses

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday hoped petrol prices will be reduced soon after state-owned oil companies recoup losses. The Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have for the past 15 months not revised petrol and diesel prices in line with the cost. The losses incurred are now being recouped after oil prices slid. "I will hope if under-recoveries (or losses) end, prices should come down," he said in Varanasi. At one time, profit on petrol was ₹10 a litre but subsequent firming of oil prices have trimmed it down to half. PTI

Tripura polls: IPFT in talks with TIPRA, BJP for seat-sharing

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) is holding parallel talks with its current ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and the four-year-old Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) for the February 16 Assembly election in Tripura.

IPFT president and Tribal Welfare Minister Prem Kumar Reang on Sunday said the core members of his party held a closed-door meeting with a TIPRA team led by party chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman in Guwahati on Saturday. "Our seat-sharing arrangement has remained inconclusive. We are in talks with both the TIPRA and the BJP," he said. Mr. Reang said the IPFT had a pre-poll alliance in 2018. "We would like to continue with the arrangement if the BJP fulfils our demands," he said.

The IPFT wants the areas under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) to be declared a full-fledged State. Its demand since 2009 differs from that of the TIPRA, which seeks the 'Greater Tipraland' State comprising the whole of Tripura and areas beyond. Mr. Reang said his party has not counted out TIPRA because Mr. Deb Barman has been "fighting for the cause of the indigenous tribals wholeheartedly". He indicated the IPFT and TIPRA would be natural allies as they share similar concerns.

The IPFT and TIPRA are concentrating on 20 Assembly seats that fall within the TTAADC. The remaining 40 seats are dominated by non-tribal people. Mr. Deb Barman had earlier told journalists that the TIPRA and IPFT leaders have started discussions for a merger or for fighting the polls together from a common platform.

"We can forge an electoral alliance with any party or parties that will give us a written assurance supporting our demand. There's propaganda that we are tying up with the BJP or Congress or the Communist Party of India (Marxist)," he said.

The IPFT had won eight of the 10 seats it contested in 2018. It now has four MLAs.

Trinamool MPs share links to BBC documentary

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Lashing out at the Centre, Trinamool Congress MPs Mahua Moitra and Derek O'Brien on Sunday shared the link to the controversial BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and vowed to fight against "censorship". The government on Friday directed Twitter and YouTube to block links to the documentary titled "India: The Modi Question".

Mr. O'Brien was among the Opposition leaders whose tweet on the documentary was removed by Twitter. The two MPs also shared a list of Twitter links "blocked" on the government's direction. "Twitter links of citizens blocked by Govt. for sharing @BBC report. @derekobrienmp & @pbhushan1 on it. My link is still up," Ms. Moitra said in a tweet.

Ms. Moitra said she will not accept "censorship". She posted a link to the documentary on her official handle stating – "Sorry, Haven't been elected to represent world's largest democracy to accept censorship. Here's the link."

Rise in attempts to revive militancy in Punjab, say speakers at police meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

अखिल भारतीय पुलिस महानिदेशक/महानिरीक्षक सम्मेलन-2022
ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DIRECTOR GENERALS/INSPECTOR GENERALS OF POLICE-2022
National Agricultural Science Complex, New Delhi | January 20-22, 2023

Intense discussion: Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval attending the 57th All India Conference of Police in New Delhi. PTI

Post 2015, there has been a rise in attempts by state and non-state actors from Pakistan and extremist elements based in western countries to destabilise and revive militancy in Punjab, according to one of the deliberations at the three-day annual police meeting in New Delhi that concluded on Sunday.

According to a presentation made by Punjab Director-General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav at the conference, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the State police have successfully solved at least 17 cases of targeted killings in Punjab that pointed to an organised attempt to create unrest in the State. The subject of discussion was "Khalistan extremism: communication and logistic networks".

The role of Pakistan in aiding and sheltering Khalistani terrorists, namely Wadhwa Singh Babbar, Harwinder Singh Rinda, Ranjeet Singh Neeta and Lakhbir Singh Rode, was highlighted. The effective use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) against the terror suspects was also cited. A senior official said the diaspora in the U.S, Canada, the U.K. and other European countries were also channelling funds and radicalising the youth in Punjab.

Use of drones

The use of drones in dropping huge consignments of narcotics, arms and ammunition in Punjab from across the border was one of the significant challenges discussed.

One of the disturbing trends in the past three years is the nexus between organised criminal gangs and fugitive terrorists, further bolstered by narco-trafficking gangs, an official said. Jailed gangsters recruiting and planning attacks from prisons was also a cause of concern and reforms in the management of prisons was suggested.

The official said that according to an assessment, radical elements exploit religious gatherings at gurdwaras in western countries to give provocative speeches and collect donations from the diaspora that is routed to Punjab for extremist activities. In all, 16 topics were discussed at the conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau.

PM calls for prison reforms and repeal of obsolete laws

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

At the annual police meet that concluded on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested prison reforms to improve the jail management, and recommended repealing obsolete criminal laws.

Mr. Modi attended the 57th All India Conference of Directors-General and Inspectors-General of Police organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) on Saturday and Sunday.

A government statement said the Prime Minister suggested making the police forces more sensitive and training them in emerging technologies. He emphasised the importance of the National Data Governance Framework for smoothing of data exchange across agencies.

"The Prime Minister suggested that while we should further leverage technological solutions like biometrics etc., there is also a need to further strengthen the traditional policing mechanisms like foot patrols etc.," the statement said. He recommended repealing obsolete criminal laws and building standards for police organisations across States. He also discussed strengthening of border as well as coastal security by organising frequent visits of officials to these locations.

He emphasised enhanced cooperation between the State Police and the Central agencies to leverage capabilities and share best practices.

"He suggested replicating the model of the conference at the State/district levels for discussing emerging challenges and evolving best practices among their teams," the statement added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministers of State for Home, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and Home Secretary Ajay kumar Bhalla were present.

SC notice on Kerala GST law permitting levy of tax under repealed VAT regime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought response from commercial tax authorities in a petition challenging the legality of provisions in the Kerala Goods and Services Tax (GST) law which allows assessment, levy and collection of tax under the repealed Value Added Tax (VAT) regime.

A Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta recently protected traders, including the lead petitioner, T.S. Belaraman, represented by advocate S. Mahesh Sahasranaman, who were affected by the levy of tax under the VAT system.

Oppressive tax laws

Advocates Arjun Garg, Aakash Nandolia and Sagun Srivastava also appeared for the petitioner.

Mr. Sahasranaman submitted that small traders and enterprises had suffered immensely during the pandemic and they should be allowed to get back on their feet rather than being pulled down by oppressive tax laws.

He said the issue was of considerable constitutional importance and concerned the fundamental right to life and livelihood.

The special leave petition was filed in the top court against a November 30, 2022 judgment of the Kerala High Court in a batch of petitions which had challenged the constitutional validity of the Kerala GST Act.

Saving clause

The High Court had dismissed the petitioners' arguments against the continued use of a 'saving' clause in the State GST Act to levy, collect and assess tax under the repealed VAT law.

The High Court said the State had sufficient legislative powers to engraft the 'saving clause' into the Kerala GST Act.

KSITIL
KFON
INTERNET - A BASIC RIGHT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) for and on behalf of KFON Limited invites Tenders under two cover bid system (Bid I: Prequalification & Techno Commercial bid and Bid II: Price Bid) from eligible contractors for the following work under KFON project.
Name of the work: Selection of Management Service Provider (MSP) for KFON Project
Last date for submission of e-tender: 03:00 pm on 14/02/2023
Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Date: 23/01/2023 Managing Director
Trivandrum Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited

TNPL **TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Subject Matter	Due date
2023-24/ TNPL/INS/ RENEWAL	Fixing of Insurers(s) for Renewal of various insurance policies covering TNPL properties, Employees, Interests, Liabilities etc., which are due for Renewal on 27.02.2023. Quotes are invited from General Insurance Companies/ Authorised Agents / Brokers-Licenced by IRDAI	on or before 07.02.2023 11 AM

Terms & condition, and sum insured details are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/379/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Chief Engineer (Kaveri-Operations & Maintenance)
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560009
No.: BWSSB/CEK(O&M)TE/TA-01/21/2022/1400/2022-23 Date: 20.01.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites tender in two stage tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of **Construction of RCC Retaining Wall along Bheema River to protect II Stage and IV Stage Phase -II Pump House at T.K Halli**
Amount put to tender: **Rs. 577.05 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs.10.22 Lakhs**.
Last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **23.02.2023** upto **15:00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on **24.02.2023** at **16:00 hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/MIA/4231/2022-23 Chief Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance)

INBRIEF

BSF starts 'Ops Alert' exercise ahead of Republic Day

The Border Security Force (BSF) has started an 'Ops Alert' exercise to enhance security along the India-Pakistan border in Kutch district of Gujarat and Barmer in Rajasthan in view of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, the BSF said on Sunday. The exercise, which began on Saturday, was being carried out to "thwart any ill designs of anti-national elements" during the Republic Day celebrations, the BSF Gujarat Frontier said in a release. The exercise will continue till January 28 "all along the India-Pakistan International Border from Sir Creek (marshy area) to the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat and Barmer of Rajasthan," the force said. PTI

President to give away PM's national award for children

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Prime Minister's National Award for children for the year 2023 on 11 children for their exceptional achievements in fields such as art and culture, innovation and sports. President Murmu will present the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to the children on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the children on Tuesday, an official statement said. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani will interact with the children and congratulate them along with Minister of State for Women and Child Develoment Munjpara Mahendrabhai for their performances.

Drone carrying heroin shot down near border in Amritsar

In a joint operation by the Border Security Force and the Punjab Police, a drone carrying drugs was shot down near the India-Pakistan international border in Amritsar on Sunday, officials said. The unmanned aerial vehicle transporting 5 kg of heroin, was struck down at Kakkar, the police said. "In a major breakthrough, the Amritsar police, in a joint operation with BSF, have recovered a drone after firing and bringing it down and seized 5 kg heroin from Kakkar, 2 km from the International Border with Pakistan," Director-General of Police Gaurav Yadav said in a tweet. PTI

Indian social platform pitches solution for 'online toxicity'

The founder of social media website Pixstory, Appu Esthose Suresh, presented his pitch for a network driven by 'positivity' at the Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday evening, before the Premier League match between Arsenal and Manchester United. Mr. Suresh's firm clinched a deal with Arsenal as the football team's "Official Social Media Partner". "Everyone who joins the platforms gets a base integrity score," Mr. Suresh said. This score increases as users contribute content and add information about themselves. The site says on its website that it promotes "transparency, integrity, and decency in which users are held accountable to the truth", he added in a telephonic interview on Thursday.

'Economy at risk from move to clean energy'

Study says 60% of lending to the mining sector is for oil and gas extraction, while one-fifth of the manufacturing sector debt is for petroleum refining and related industries. Electricity production — the largest source of emissions — accounted for 5.2%, but only 17.5% of this is to pure-play renewables

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's financial sector is highly exposed to the risks of the economy transitioning from being largely dependent on fossil fuel to clean energy, says a study in the *Global Environmental Change* journal, published last week.

An analysis of individual loans and bonds found that 60% of the lending to the mining sector was for oil and gas extraction, while one-fifth of the manufacturing sector debt is for petroleum refining and related industries. Electricity production – by far the largest source of carbon emissions – accounted for 5.2% of outstanding credit, but only 17.5% of this lending is to pure-play renewables. Moreover, there was a shortage of experts in India's financial institutions who had the expertise to appropriately advise the institutions on such a transition, the authors noted.

"Fewer than half of the 154 finance professionals surveyed were familiar with environmental issues, including climate change mitigation and adaption, greenhouse gas emissions or transition risks. Only four of the 10 major financial institutions surveyed collect information on environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks, and these firms do not systematically incorporate that data into financial planning," the authors noted.

"Our findings suggest that financiers, regulators and policymakers in emerging and developing economies should be acting swiftly to ensure an orderly transition to net-zero," they said.

Trillion dollars needed

In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed India to reach net-zero emissions by 2070. India has also announced plans to source half of its electricity needs from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. However, the country has also maintained that it needs financing to the order of at least a trillion dollars to meet these commitments.

The NTPC Simhadri power plant in Visakhapatnam, the world's third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, plans to more than triple its clean-energy capacity by the end of the decade. FILE PHOTO

Mapping India's policy commitments against these lending and investment patterns reveals that India's financial sector is heavily exposed to potential transition risks.

"Financial institutions will need to ramp up their capacities relatively quickly as the RBI-led momentum further picks up. The other side of risks is the tremendous opportunity to move finance towards sustainable assets and activities," said a statement from Neha Kumar, one of the co-authors and the head of South Asia programmes at the Climate Bonds Initiative.

India is expected to launch its first-ever sovereign green bonds auction later this week, with the Reserve Bank of India expected to launch five- and 10-year green bonds worth ₹40 billion.

India's Presidency of the G-20 also means a focus on the energy transition and mobilising sustainable finance.

High debt

High-carbon industries – power generation, chemicals, iron and steel, and aviation – account for 10% of outstanding debt to Indian financial institutions. However, these industries are also heavily indebted, and therefore have less financial capacity to respond to shocks and stresses.

Coal currently accounts for 44% of India's primary energy sources and 70% of its power generation.

The country's coal-fired power plants have an average age of about 13 years and India has 91,000 MW of new proposed coal capacity in the works, second only to China.

According to the Draft National Electricity Plan, 2022, coal's share in the electricity generation mix will decrease to 50% by the year 2030, compared to the current contribution of 70%.

"The financial decisions of Indian banks and institutional investors are locking the country into a more polluting, more expensive energy supply. For example, we find that only 17.5% of bank lending to the power sector has been to pure-play renewables. Consequently, India has much higher electricity from carbon-sources than the world average, despite its vast potential for cheap solar, wind and small hydropower. Shifting resources towards these renewables would deliver huge benefits: cheaper electricity, cleaner air and fewer emissions," said Sarah Colenbrander, Director of climate and sustainability at the Overseas Development Institute and a co-author of the study.

Man in police custody for duping hotel of ₹23 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Sunday sent Mahamed Sharif, accused of duping a five-star hotel in the national capital of more than ₹23 lakh by posing as a functionary of the United Arab Emirates royal family and not paying the bill for his more than three-month stay, to police custody for two days.

The Delhi Police arrested Mr. Sharif on January 19 from Dakshina Kannada of Karnataka, his home district, with the help of technical surveillance and tracking his phone.

During a hearing, duty magistrate Shivangi Vyas noted that the police had to recover silverware and other expensive items allegedly stolen from the hotel from his house in Delhi and granted the custodial interrogation.

According to the police, a case was registered at the Sarojini Nagar police station on January 14 on the complaint of the general manager of the Leela Palace Hotel.

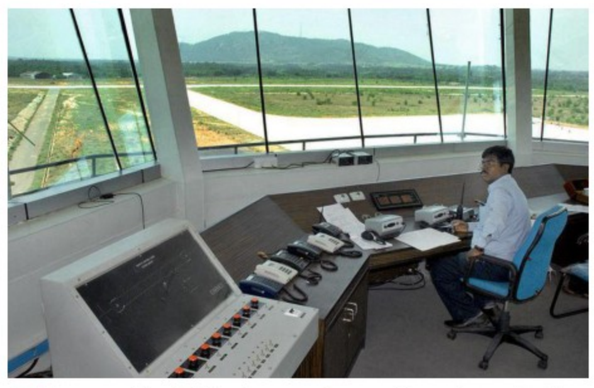
DGCA issues new norms for duty timings of air traffic controllers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued new norms for duty timings of air traffic controllers, rejecting a proposal of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide relaxation for airports with fewer flights to enable it overcome a manpower shortage.

Though a version of these norms was first notified in November 2020, the AAI found it difficult to comply with it as it needed more personnel to provide the mandatory rest period. It has since then sought exemptions five times, and had also proposed differentiated duty timings for four categories of airports on the basis of air traffic handled – major airports or those with more than 400 flights a day and airports with up to 100 flights, 30 flights and 10 flights a day.

The DGCA rules for "watch duty time limitations and rest requirements" for controllers notified on January 11 say that the duty period of an air traffic controller cannot exceed 12 hours. A controller can only be assigned duty of no more than 48 hours within seven days, or not exceeding 180 hours in 30 days. The aviation regulator also says a controller requires 12 hours of rest between the end of one duty period and another. A controller cannot be rostered for more than six consecutive days.



Strict norms: The DGCA rules as on January 11 say that a duty time of an air traffic controller cannot exceed 12 hours. FILE PHOTO

He or she also must get a 30-minute break after every two hours, and at airports where the workload is less than half the capacity of the airport, can get a break once in four hours on a pro-rata basis – 45 minutes after three hours or 60 minutes after four hours.

Advance roster

While the duty hours have remained broadly unchanged since the 2020 norms, the DGCA has strengthened its rules to ensure compliance.

For the first time, the DGCA has defined the role of the Air Traffic Service incharge in ensuring implementation such as publishing a roster five days in advance to provide the controllers the opportunity to plan rest, and that they do not perform administrative duties beyond the duty period.

The DGCA rules also lay the onus on the controllers not to perform any safety relevant tasks when they know that they are fatigued or are unfit. But the AAI's inability to hasten recruitment to meet requirement for more personnel may continue to be a roadblock in ensuring these rules are implemented.

"The AAI Board in May 2022 approved creation of 456 posts, but they are yet to be okayed by the Department of Public Enterprises of the Finance Ministry. A recruitee takes two years to be trained as a controller and at this rate they may not be ready before 2025 but there is an urgent need for more manpower as we are going to see nearly 20 more airports become operational by 2024," says Alok Yadav, general secretary, Air Traffic Controllers' Guild.

There are 3,871 air traffic control personnel, the same as the sanctioned posts. But the AAI has projected a demand for 5,131 in 2023 and 5,428 in 2024 to comply with DGCA norms.

Former civil servants write to President on island plan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Constitutional Conduct Group, which includes nearly 100 former civil servants, has written to President Droupadi Murmu protesting the government's push for a mega-infrastructure project on the Great Nicobar island.

The Union Environment Ministry in November gave an in-principle clearance for the diversion of 130.75 sq. km. of forest in Great Nicobar island for a ₹72,000-crore project that includes a trans-shipment port, an airport, a power plant and a greenfield township. This is one of the largest single forest diversions in recent times.

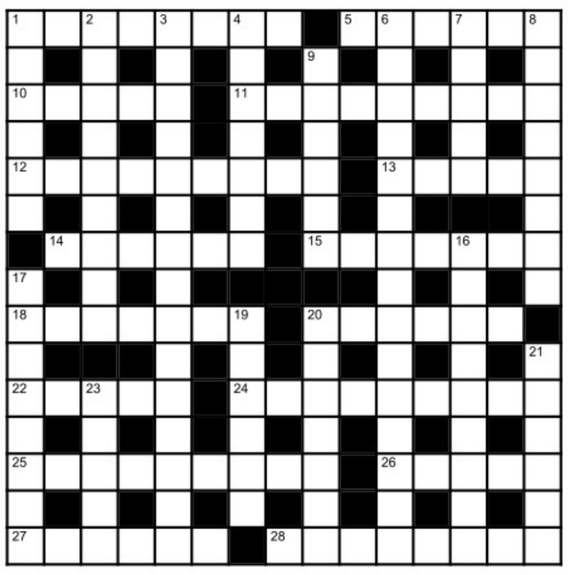
"We earnestly request you to advise your government to immediately stop the commencement of destructive projects in Great Nicobar," the letter notes. The project threatens to displace the 'extremely vulnerable' Shompen tribe as well deliver a significant blow to the ecology of the island, they said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13769

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Kick in crotch? That is awful (8)
5 Game of chance after bachelor's extremely drunk (6)
10 Gathering of witches in cavern at end of Halloween (5)
11 Canoodling with a star in opening when husband's away (6,3)
12 Distributed special protein bars, over 500 (9)
13 Crushed by runout, really shocking (5)
14 Immature desire to get hold of joint increases (6)
15 A canoe floating around island in Pacific region (7)
18 Bad-tempered woman's fury overwhelming students at college (7)
20 Dropping good equipment, scowl and utter explosively (3,3)
22 Close after introducing new surgical bypass tube (5)
24 Love energy after consuming very strong drug (9)
25 India's opener on zero - absorbing start to Test, man's nervous (2,1,6)
26 First off, warn about hot volatile liquid (5)
27 Cry of huntsmen is so icky, barbaric (6)
28 Becomes uneasy as rebellious teens drink (6,2)

Down

1 Method is perfect to smuggle ecstasy and cocaine (6)
2 Model in club finished back massage and left (5,4)
3 Cheat playing cricket fined for deception (10,5)
4 Animals crushed by pachyderm in estate (7)
6 Make money dishonestly from fake old pennies in ornamental cases (4,4,7)
7 Swimmer is tense, starting to overexert in channel (5)
8 Where yoga practitioner might be seen being reprimanded (2,3,3)
9 Most willingly, child enters snowmobile (6)
16 Nurses in hospital involved in treatment of neurosis (9)
17 Many impatient to have sex in the unmarried state (8)
19 Kitschy painting reviewed and withdrawn (6)
20 Adjudicate about liberal tackling intolerance at Centre (7)
21 Dishonest boy escapes punishment for trick (6)
23 Extract of kokum, a mildly savoury taste (5)

SUDOKU

					4	2		
	9		5	3				8
6	4		1	2				
	1							
		6	4		9	7		
							5	
				4	1		9	5
8				5	6		1	
		4	2					

No.SS5687 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R	I	G	H	T	O	F	F	■	B	O	N	S	A	I
E	■	O	■	O	■	O	■	V	■	C	■	O	■	N
S	T	U	T	T	E	R	■	E	X	H	I	B	I	T
I	■	R	■	H	■	G	■	N	■	R	■	R	■	H
S	E	D	G	E	■	O	N	T	H	E	S	I	D	E
T	■	E	■	H	■	O	■	U	■	■	■	E	■	E
■	■	■	K	I	N	D	E	R	G	A	R	T	E	N
S	■	L	■	L	■	M	■	E	■	R	■	Y	■	D
K	N	O	W	T	H	E	■	S	C	O	R	E	■	■
I	■	U	■	■	■	A	■	A	■	O	■	R	■	M
R	U	S	T	L	E	S	U	P	■	G	R	I	P	E
M	■	E	■	E	■	U	■	I	■	A	■	A	■	A
I	N	S	I	D	E	R	■	T	A	N	G	L	E	S
S	■	U	■	O	■	E	■	A	■	C	■	T	■	L
H	O	P	I	N	G	■	A	L	L	E	G	O	R	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	8	7	6	2	3	5	9
6	3	2	9	5	4	1	7	8
5	7	9	3	8	1	6	4	2
8	5	7	4	3	6	2	9	1
2	4	3	1	9	5	8	6	7
1	9	6	2	7	8	5	3	4
7	6	1	8	4	3	9	2	5
9	2	5	6	1	7	4	8	3
3	8	4	5	2	9	7	1	6

FAITH

Tiruppavai, seed of all Vedas

God is the root of all Vedas. A seed may be very small but big plants and trees sprout rom it. Tiruppavai by Andal is like a seed. Brahmam, from where did everything start, is explained in it. Sri Ramanuja says only Sri Andal can give full commentary.

The Acharya was little afraid of giving his explanations, thereby implying it is so deep, expansive and vast. It is said that those who do not understand the five times five plus five (Iyaindhum aindum) pasurams are just a burden in this world.

Sri Andal had given a scientific, pragmatic and systematic approach to her work, said Dr. Sudha Seshaian in a discourse. The first five pasurams give a summary or an abstract of what she wanted to explain. Next ten about waking up everyone and the remaining fifteen about praying and worshipping the Lord.

The devotees are greater than God Himself and we have to show all respect and reverence to them. We should circumambulate the court surrounding the inner shrine of a temple, called prakaras, and enter the main shrine. By going round, all the external matters get exterminated from our mind and the mind becomes pure while standing before Him. Moreover in the prakaras, the devotees of God (Bhagavathas) may be present and prostrating them first, we go to the shrine.

The Gopikas had a staunch belief that God was with them always. We should develop that kind of belief and have the feeling that God is always with us and He protects us. We should remember always that our life chariot is driven by Him like Lord Krishna to Arjuna.

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q I am a senior citizen drawing pension. For the past 15 years, I have been investing in tax-saving instruments, mostly in ELSS funds. Kindly clarify:
1) Which investments come under exempt, exempt and exempt, and
2) Under which category do ELSS and SCSS fall under
Also, kindly advise me on investing ₹1,50,000/-U/S80C.
A. KRIPANIDHI

A Point-wise reply:
1) Exempt Exempt Exempt (EEE) investments under Section 80C include Public Provident Fund, Employee Provident Fund, Life Insurance, ULIPs and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana. It is to be noted the conditions as construed in the section and respective investments/instruments are to be followed in order for the aforementioned investments/instruments to be EEE
2) ELSS is not taxable when the total long-term capital gains derived from listed equities, equity-oriented mutual funds and ELSS of an assessee in a year is less than ₹1 lakh.
Such LTCG amounts in excess of ₹1 lakh is taxable. ELSS mutual funds can be Exempt Exempt (EE) or Exempt Taxable (ET) from assessee to assessee based on the gain made during the relevant year.
Interest accruing from SCSS is taxable, however, on maturity the principal portion is not taxable, hence it is Exempt Taxable Exempt (ETE)
3) PPF has a lock-in period of 15 years whereas ELSS mutual funds are linked to the equity markets which are considered to be very volatile.
You may look at investments in SCSS or tax-saving FDs as deposits have a much shorter lock-in period in comparison with PPF. However, the interest is disbursed on a quarterly basis with respect to SCSS. It is to be noted that the interests earned on SCSS and tax-saving FDs are taxable but the initial investment is eligible for a deduction under Section 80C making them ETE.

Q I used to work in the U.S. between 2011 and 2018. I relocated to India for good in late 2018.
During my stay in the U.S., I had invested in the U.S. stock market.
After my relocation to India, I did not close my positions. I continue to trade in the U.S. stock market and continue to pay capital gain taxes in that country. I pay taxes for the interest earned in India for the amount I transfer from the U.S. to India to meet my expenses here. I file my tax returns both in India and the U.S.
As an Indian, do I have to make any disclosures in India for all my equity holdings in the U.S. stock market ?
ARVIND

A Since you are a Resident Indian, you are required to disclose your foreign assets and incomes in "Schedule FA - Details of Foreign Assets and Income from any source outside India" which is available in ITR-2 and ITR-3.
Under this schedule, you are required to disclose your foreign holdings along with the details sought with respect to Foreign Depository Accounts held (including interest paid/credited), Foreign Custodian Accounts held (including interest paid/credited), Foreign Equity and Debt Interests held(including proceeds from sale/redemption and gross amounts paid/credited), Foreign Cash Value Insurance Contracts or Annuity Contract held, Financial Interest in any Entity held, Immovable Property held outside India, Other Capital Assets held outside India, Accounts in which signing authority is possessed, Details of trusts created under laws outside of India, details of other income derived from any source outside India which is not covered in the aforementioned points.
As a Resident Indian, your global incomes are taxable in India, you are required to disclose the incomes earned outside India appropriately in the ITR, the tax paid thereon (if any) and you are eligible to claim relief under DTAA entered between India and USA for the taxes paid in U.S.
(The writer is a partner, GSS and Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Navigating passive debt funds

Passive debt funds can help meet many goals, from buying a car or meeting the down payment for your home, to funding retirement or generating a regular income after it

PASSIVE INVESTING

Aarati Krishnan

Stock market investors are by now used to index funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) which mimic a stock index. But there's an emerging category of passive debt funds that can help meet many goals from buying a car or meeting the down payment for your home, to funding retirement or generating a regular income after it.

If held for three years plus, passive debt funds work as a more tax-efficient alternative to fixed deposits and small savings schemes

If held for three years plus, passive debt funds work as a more tax-efficient alternative to fixed deposits and small savings schemes. They offer anytime liquidity, while other debt options lock in money. They come at a much lower cost than active debt mutual funds. Here's a lowdown on them.

Diversified TMFs

In actively managed debt funds, the onus is on you to decide the horizon for which you'd like to invest and select the right category – overnight, ultra-short, short, medium, long term. Returns that you earn from such funds are hard to predict and can move up and down with market interest rates during your holding period.

But target maturity debt funds (TMFs) are launched with a very specific end-date. The fund manager buys and holds a diversified basket of securities, all of which mature on the fund's maturity date. The interest earned accrues to the fund's NAV. At maturity, the fund winds up and returns principal and accumulated interest (if you opt for the growth option).

This protects investors from interest rate risk. The yield-to-maturity at which you buy into a target maturity fund roughly corresponds to the returns you can expect to earn from it, with a small adjustment for the fund's expenses. Expense ratios on TMFs are quite low at between 0.06 and 0.16% on direct plans and 0.06 and 0.50% for regular plans.

TMFs with a diversified portfolio typically track a custom-built index, but may not exactly mirror it. While some TMFs are constructed as ETFs, some are run as open-end funds. Edelweiss' Bharat Bond ETF series, for example, invests in highly-rated PSU bonds, and is available for different maturity dates – 2023, 2025, 2030, 2031, 2032 and so on. Other fund houses run open-end TMFs that invest in a mix of government securities, PSU bonds and State Development Loans (SDLs) in different combinations. Some instances are Aditya Birla Sun Life SDL plus PSU Bond 2026 60:40 fund, SBI CPSE plus SDL Sep 2026 fund, Kotak Nifty SDL April 2027 fund and so on.

The funds offer anytime liquidity, while other debt options lock in money. They come at a much lower cost than active debt MFs

The fund name tells you both the portfolio composition and maturity date. Apart from the target date matching your goal, the key features to look is the latest YTM (yield-to-maturity) of the portfolio, expense ratio and mix of securities owned.

Gilt TMFs

A less complex variant of the diversified TMF is the gilt or SDL TMF, which only own one type of security (Central government securities or State Development Loans) with a common maturity date. Nippon India Nifty G-sec 2036, IDFC Gilt 2027, Kotak Nifty SDL April 2032, ICICI Pru Nifty SDL September 2027, HDFC Nifty G-sec July 2031 are some instances.

Usually, TMFs investing in Central g-secs own only one or two securities, while the SDL funds own a basket of bonds from different State governments. Your choice of gilt TMF should again depend on the timing of your goal, the current YTM of the fund and the expense ratio charged. To play it absolutely safe, gilt TMFs should be your choice while SDL TMFs offer you a shot at higher yields for slightly more risk. The expense ratios are usually lower than diversified TMFs.

Constant MFs

Constant maturity funds (MFs) do not have a specific end date, but always own securities of a certain maturity. So, a 10-year constant maturity fund would always own gilts with end-dates averaging out to 10 years. As the gilts in the portfolio mature, the fund acquires new ones with a similar 10-year term.

Entry, exit

Returns on constant maturity funds, unlike those on TMFs, depend on your entry and exit timing. When interest rates rise sharply in a short span, a 5 or 10 year constant maturity fund can suffer NAV losses, which are made up over time. Investors in such funds, therefore, need to time their entry to some extent or match their goals to the fund's stated maturity and brace for volatile returns in the interim. Presently, these funds are available in 5-year and 10-year variants, with expense ratios of 0.50-0.70% on regular plans and 0.20-0.50% for direct plans.

The living years

THINKINVESTOR

You can determine the retirement corpus needed to buy a joint life annuity with return of purchase price to moderate the issue associated with life expectancy

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

You must determine how long you will live if you want to invest for your retirement portfolio. This portfolio is one into which you accumulate money through your working life to buy income-generating products at retirement to support post-retirement living. In this article, we discuss certain factors you must consider for determining your life expectancy.

Goldilocks principle

Your estimate of life expectancy should be just right – not too conservative nor too aggressive. Why? A conservative estimate would assume you will live longer, say, 100. Such assumption would be valid if many in your family have lived long.
Otherwise, assuming longer life has its consequences on current lifestyle. Suppose you start work at 22 and intend to retire at 60. You have 38 years of working life during which you will pursue life goals such as buying a house and funding your child's education. You must also provide for over one year of retired life for every year you work! This could stress your current cash flows.

An aggressive estimate would assume you will live till, say, 75. That could not stress your current lifestyle but leads to longevity risk- the risk that you will outlive your investments post-retirement. So, how should you balance between an aggressive and a conservative estimate? Life expectancy is an average age an individual is likely to live, assuming the rates apply throughout the person's remaining life. For instance, according to WHO, life expectancy in India in 2020 was 70.8. But the actual years an individual is likely to live can be more or less than 70.8. You need to adjust your life expectancy based on your lifestyle and genes. If your parents live past 80, there is a high probability that you will too.
Determining life expectancy is easier said than done. You should, therefore, revise the estimated amount you need at retirement continually through working life to account for any change in lifestyle and health conditions.

Conclusion

You can determine the retirement corpus needed to buy a joint life annuity with return of purchase price to moderate the issue associated with life expectancy. This product from a life insurance firm pays you or spouse, whoever survives longer, through life. So, the impact of the error in estimating life expectancy can be moderated. Having accumulated the corpus, you can decide at retirement whether to buy an annuity or any other income-generating product that best fits post-retirement needs.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals for managing their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.10	7.75	7.20
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.10	7.10	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.00	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.25	7.00	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.85	7.25	7.85	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.00	7.25	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.50	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.26	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.50	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.50	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.25	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.85	7.25	7.85	7.60
HDFC Bank	7.00	6.50	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.00	6.60	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.50	6.75	7.50	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	6.80	5.75	5.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.25	6.50	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.60	6.25	5.75
RBL Bank	7.55	7.00	7.00	7.00
SBM Bank India	7.75	6.75	7.00	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.00	6.50	6.50	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.05	6.75	6.75	6.25
Bank of India	7.05	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.15	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	7.00	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.00	6.40	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	6.75	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
State Bank of India	6.75	6.75	6.25	6.25
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.30	7.30	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Citibank	7.25	7.25	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.50	6.75	7.50	7.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.75-9.50	8.75-9.40	8.75-9.40
Bank of Baroda	8.60-10.35	8.60-10.35	8.60-10.60
Union Bank of India	8.60-10.50	8.60-10.70	8.60-10.70
Punjab National Bank	8.60-9.35	8.55-9.25	8.55-9.25
Bank of India	8.60-10.60	8.60-10.60	8.60-10.60
Canara Bank	8.90-13.70	8.90-13.70	8.90-13.70
UCO Bank	8.75-9.75	8.75-9.75	8.75-9.75
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.35-10.55	8.35-10.80	8.35-10.80
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.60-9.70	8.60-9.70	8.60-9.70
Indian Overseas Bank	9.30-10.70	8.50 onwards	8.50 onwards
Indian Bank	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.15
Private Sector Banks			
ICICI Bank	8.75-9.85	8.75-9.85	8.75-9.85
Axis Bank	8.60-12.70	8.60-12.70	8.60-9.05
HSBC Bank	8.55 onwards	8.55 onwards	8.55 onwards
South Indian Bank	9.60-12.35	9.60-12.35	9.60-12.35
Karur Vysya Bank	8.95-11.85	8.95-11.85	8.95-11.85
Karnataka Bank	8.95-10.12	8.95-10.12	8.95-10.22
Federal Bank	9.90-9.95	9.95-10.00	10.00-10.05
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.15-10.30	9.15-10.30	9.15-10.30
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.75-9.25	8.75-9.25	8.75-9.25
Bandhan Bank	8.65-14.00	8.65-14.00	8.65-14.00
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.65-10.10	8.65-10.30	8.65-10.50
HDFC Ltd.	8.65-10.35	8.65-10.60	8.65-10.70
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.75 onwards	8.75 onwards	8.70 onwards
Tata Capital	8.95 onwards	8.95 onwards	8.95 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.75-14.50	8.75-13.00	8.85-10.85
GIC Housing Finance	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.25 onwards	9.25 onwards	9.25 onwards
Indiabulls Housing	9.30 onwards	9.30 onwards	9.30 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.75-14.50	8.75-14.50	8.75-14.50
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards
Godrej Housing Finance	8.39-10.99	8.39-10.99	8.39-10.99

*Concession of 0.05% in applicable interest rate to women borrowers and armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR

Rates as on January 19 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

BEIJING

China logs 13,000 COVID-19 deaths in a week; peak period over: official

AP

China reported nearly 13,000 COVID-related deaths in hospitals between January 13 and 19, after a top health official said the vast majority of the population had already been infected. However, this figure does not include those who died at home. An official also said that China has passed the peak period of COVID-19 infection. AFP

LIMA

Peru closes Machu Picchu as anti-government protests grow

AFP

The Culture Ministry in Peru said it had indefinitely closed the famed ancient ruins of Machu Picchu, the country's most famous tourist attraction, as well as the Inca Trail leading up to the site "to protect the safety of tourists". This is the latest sign that anti-government protests are increasingly engulfing the country. AP

WASHINGTON

Biden to name ex-pandemic policy adviser Jeff Zients as Chief of Staff

AP

U.S. President Joe Biden will name as his Chief of Staff Jeff Zients, a former White House pandemic policy coordinator, sources said. He was credited with overseeing Mr. Biden's efforts to get Americans vaccinated, but also faced criticism that the administration did not do enough early on to boost testing capacity. REUTERS

MOGADISHU

Six killed in Al-Shabaab attack at Mayor's office in Somalia capital

REUTERS

At least six people were killed on Sunday in an attack by Al-Shabaab militants at the Mayor's office in central Mogadishu. A suicide bomber set off a huge blast that tore through building near the office complex with gunfire erupting afterwards, Somali police spokesman Sadik Dudishe said at the end of the four-hour siege. AFP

Gunman kills 10 during Lunar New Year fete in U.S.

10 wounded in the shooting; the celebration in Monterey Park is one of California's largest and had attracted tens of thousands through the day; most residents are Asian immigrants from China

Associated Press
MONTEREY PARK

A gunman killed 10 people at a ballroom dance studio amid a day of Lunar New Year celebrations and then may have tried – but failed – to target a second dance hall, authorities said on Sunday. An urgent search was under way across the Los Angeles area for the suspect.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said that 20 to 30 minutes after the shooting at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park late on Saturday, which left five women and five men dead and another 10 people injured, a man with a gun entered the Lai Lai Ballroom in nearby Alhambra. Mr. Luna said it's still unclear whether the events are connected. "We believe that there's an incident that may be related," said Mr. Luna of the incident in Alhambra. "We're not quite there yet, but it's definitely on our radar screen."

Standing guard: The police patrolling the crime scene along Garvey Avenue in Monterey Park, California, on Saturday. AFP

Mr. Luna said a "male Asian suspect" entered the Alhambra club with a "firearm" and that people wrestled the gun away from him before he fled. Investigators are interested in a white cargo van that was seen in the area and that police have the gun from Alhambra. He declined to say what type of gun was recovered in Alhambra, and said that investigators believe the firearm used at Monterey Park was not an "assault rifle".

The massacre – which derailed Lunar New Year celebrations and sent fear through Monterey Park and Alhambra's large Asian American communities – was the nation's fifth mass killing this month.

Monterey Park is a city of about 60,000 people on the eastern edge of Los Angeles and is composed mostly of Asian immigrants from China or first-generation Asian Americans. The shooting happened in the heart of its downtown where red lanterns decorated the streets for the Lunar New Year festivities. A police car was parked near a large banner that proclaimed "Happy Year of the Rabbit!"

The celebration in Monterey Park is one of California's largest and had attracted tens of thousands throughout the day.

Israelis take to the streets against government's plan to overhaul judicial system

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Tens of thousands of Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government to overhaul the judicial system, measures that opponents say imperil the country's democratic foundation. The Israeli media, citing the police, said some 1,00,000 people were out protesting.

The protest followed another demonstration last week that also drew tens of thousands in an early challenge to Mr. Netanyahu and his ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox government – the most right-wing in Israeli history. The government says a power imbalance has given judges and government legal advisers too much sway over lawmaking and governance. Mr. Netanyahu has pledged to press on with the changes despite the opposition.

Up in arms: Israelis protest against the proposed judicial reforms to reduce powers of the judiciary, in Tel Aviv on Saturday. REUTERS

'Protecting democracy'

Protesters filled central streets in the seaside metropolis, raising Israeli flags and banners that read, "Our Children will not Live in a Dictatorship," and "Israel, We Have A Problem." "This is a protest to defend the country," said Opposition leader and former Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who joined the protest. "People came here today to protect their democracy."

Other protests took place in the cities of Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheba.

Earlier this week, Mr. Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, vowed to continue with the judicial overhaul despite the protests.

Netanyahu fires Cabinet ally, heeding court ruling

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired a key Cabinet ally on Sunday, heeding a court ruling commanding him to do so.

Mr. Netanyahu announced he was firing Aryeh Deri, who serves as Interior and Health Minister, at a meeting of his Cabinet. Israel's Supreme Court decided last week that Mr. Deri could not serve as a Cabinet Minister because of a conviction last year over tax offences. The ruling came as Israel is mired in a dispute over the power of the judiciary.

According to his office, Mr. Netanyahu told Mr. Deri he was removing him from his post with "a heavy heart and great sorrow."

"This unfortunate decision ignores the people's will," he said. "I intend to find any legal way for you to continue to contribute to the state of Israel."

Hindu girl abducted, raped in Pakistan

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

A married Hindu girl abducted from Pakistan's southern Sindh province has said she was threatened by her kidnappers to convert to Islam and raped after she refused to change her religion.

This is the latest in a string of such atrocities committed against members of the minority community in the country.

The girl said in a disturbing video uploaded on social media that she was raped for three days in Samaro town in Umarkot district and the police are yet to register a case against the suspects.

Till Sunday, the police in Mirpurkhas have failed to register a case against the accused persons named by the girl, a Hindu local leader said.

More classified documents found in search of Biden's home

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Officials from the United States Department of Justice found six more classified documents during a search of Joe Biden's family home in Delaware this week, the President's personal lawyer said in a statement on Saturday.

The new disclosure served up another embarrassing twist for Mr. Biden in an affair dogging him just as he gets ready to declare whether he will run for another term in 2024.

Mr. Biden insists he has done nothing wrong and has downplayed the situation as an innocent mistake.

Documents from his time as Vice-President and marked as classified first turned up in an office at a Biden-affiliated think tank in Washington last year, and then again at his home in Delaware. Altogether they are about a dozen documents.

After the second find, the White House offered to let the Department of Justice search the Delaware home – the search was carried out on Friday and is now concluded, Mr. Biden's attorney Bob Bauer said.

Full access

"Department of Justice took possession of materials it deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including six items consisting of documents with classification markings and surrounding materials," Mr. Bauer said.

Some of the new papers seized were from Mr. Biden's time in the Senate and some were from his tenure as Vice President, according to Mr. Bauer.

Mr. Bauer said Mr. Biden's personal lawyers and White House counsel previously arranged with the Justice Department to be present during the inspection, and they agreed to not publicise news of the search in advance "in accordance with its standard procedures."

The White House has said the earlier batches of documents were turned over to the Justice Department and National Archives, which handles presidential records, as soon as they were found.

On Thursday, Mr. Biden dismissed the furore over the discovery of the old classified documents.

Extra steps

"We found a handful of documents... were filed in the wrong place. We immediately turned them over to the Archives and the Justice Department. We're fully cooperating and looking forward to getting this resolved quickly," he said.

Attorney General Merrick Garland earlier this month appointed a special counsel, former government lawyer Robert Hur, to act as special counsel for the investigation.

Mr. Garland said the "extraordinary circumstances" of investigating a sitting President required him to take the extra step of bringing in an outside prosecutor.

Sport

Ryan, Dillon, Sai Sanjay notch wins in MRF F2000; Double for Arjun and Ritesh

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Four races, four winners marked the premier MRF Formula 2000 category while Coimbatore ace Arjun Narendran bagged a double in the Indian Touring Cars class as the third and penultimate round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022 concluded here on Sunday.

The competition in the MRF F2000 category was fierce with Sohil Shah (Bengaluru), Dillon Thomas Zachariah (Chennai), Sai Sanjay (Salem) and Mohammed Ryan (Chennai) each winning a race over the weekend.

A happy bunch: Winners of the four MRF F2000 races — Sohil Shah, Sai Sanjay, Mohammed Ryan and Dillon. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arjun Narendran (Arka Motorsports), winner of the first race on Saturday swept to another fine win starting from fifth on the reverse grid in the Indian Touring Cars category.

The results (Provisional):

MRF Formula 2000 (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Dillon Thomas Zachariah (Chennai) (15mins, 41.751sec); 2. Divy Nandan (Gurugram) (15:45.155); 3. Mohamed Ryan (Chennai) (15:45.403).

Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Mohamed Ryan (15:12.845); 2. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (15:13.898); 3. Divy Nandan (15:19.875). Race-4 (10 laps): 1. Sai Sanjay T (Salem) (15:35.461); 2. Sohil Shah (15:36.167); 3. Dillon Thomas Zachariah (15:47.167).

Indian Touring Cars (Race-2, 12 laps): 1. Arjun Narendran (Coimbatore, Arka Motorsports) (27:34.644); 2. Arjun Balu (Coimbatore, Race Concepts) (27:34.913); 3. Jeet Jabakh (Hyderabad, Rayo Racing) (27:52.303).

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-2, 12 laps): 1. Akkineni Anand Prasad (Chennai, Performance Racing) (28:07.045); 2. Raja Rajan (Chennai, Performance Racing) (28:11.000); K Srinivas Teja (Chennai, Performance Racing) (28:15.481).

Super Stock (Race-2, 12 laps): 1. Ritesh Rai (Chennai, Performance Racing) (29:05.372); 2. Diljith TS (Thrissur, DTS Racing) (29:13.249); Jason Saldanha (Mangaluru, DB Motorsports) (29:14.491).

MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Angad Mathroo (Chandigarh) (20:52.676); 2. Justin Singh (Gurugram) (20:54.991); 3. Jai Prashanth Venkat (Coimbatore) (21:19.977).

Formula LGB 1300 (Race-2, 9 laps): 1. Raghul Rangasamy (Mamallapuram, MSport) (17:11.423); 2. Sai Shiva Makesh Sankaran (Pune, MSport) (17:11.572); 3. Tijil Rao (Bengaluru, Momentum Motorsports) (17:20.620).

Volkswagen Polo Cup (Race-3, 8 laps): 1. Sandeep Kumar (Chennai) (15:43.185); 2. Jeet Jabakh (Hyderabad) (15:47.025); 3. Aditya Swaminathan (Bengaluru) (15:47.891).

Race-4 (10 laps): 1. Sandeep Kumar (19:43.676); 2. Raaj Bakharu (Mumbai) (19:48.119); 3. Aditya Swaminathan (Bengaluru) (19:55.032).

Priceless Gold tipped for the Qutab Shahi Million

HYDERABAD: Rajesh Narredu's ward Priceless Gold should score over his rivals in the Qutab Shahi Million, the chief event of Monday's (Jan. 23) races.

1 BHUPALPALLY PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.45p.m.: 1. Ice Blue (1) Aneel 56, 2. Only The Brave (2) Santosh Raj 56, 3. Shadow Of The Moon (5) Kiran Naidu 56, 4. Smart Striker (6) B. Nikhil 56, 5. Original Sin (4) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. Planet Super (7) D.S. Deora 54.5, 7. Vijaya (3) Ashad Asbar 54.5 and 8. Windsor (8) Afroz Khan 54.5.

1. WINDSOR, 2. ORIGINAL SIN, 3. ICE BLUE

2 KING'S CROWN PLATE (1,200m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.15: 1. Kingston (3) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Bedford (1) Santosh Raj 55.5, 3. Xfinity (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 4. Ayr (4) Akshay Kumar 54, 5. Stunning Force (2) Sonu Kumar 54 and 6. Red Snaper (5) Afroz Khan 53.

1. STUNNING FORCE, 2. AYR, 3. BEDFORD

3 MEDCHAL PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.45: 1. Ivanhoe (9) Kuldeep S 60, 2. Master Touch (5) Akshay Kumar 55, 3. Mireya (6) B.Nikhil 55, 4. Royal Pal (2) R.S. Jodha 55, 5. Reining Queen (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 6. Riffa (3) G. Naresh 52, 7. Cape Town (8) D.S. Deora 51.5, 8. Delhi Heights (4) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 9. Blue Brigade (1) Rafique Sk. 51.

1. IVANHOE, 2. MASTER TOUCH, 3. REINING QUEEN

4 BRAVE HUNTER CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. Thanks (4) Kuldeep S 60, 2. True Icon (6) B. Nikhil 56, 3. Barbet (5) Kiran Naidu 55.5, 4. Star Racer (7) Surya Prakash 53.5, 5. Rhythm Selection (3) Md. Ismail 53, 6. Strauss (1) Akshay Kumar 52.5, 7. Wind Sprite (8) Afroz Khan 52.5 and 8. Wallop And Gallop (2) Gaurav 51.

1. STRAUSS, 2. BARBET, 3. THANKS

5 BONZER CUP (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.45: 1. Superstellar (2) Kuldeep S 60, 2. N R I Ultrapower (7) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 3. Special And Thong (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 4. Resurgence (1) Surya Prakash 52, 5. Role Model (5) B. Nikhil 51.5, 6. Lady Danger (4) D.S. Deora 51 and 7. Survivor (3) Ajay Kumar 50.5.

1. N R I ULTRAPOWER, 2. SUPERSTELLAR, 3. SURVIVOR

6 QUTAB SHAHI MILLION (1,600m) (Terms), 4-y-o and upward, 4.15: 1. Priceless Gold (5) Yash Narredu 57.5, 2. Bellator (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54, 3. Watch My Stride (2) Akshay Kumar 53, 4. Black Onyx (3) D.S. Deora 51.5 and 5. Beauty Blaze (4) P. Sai Kumar 50.

1. PRICELESS GOLD, 2. WATCH MY STRIDE, 3. BLACK ONYX

7 NARAYANPET PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.45: 1. City Of Blessing (8) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. General Atlantic (5) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. Top In Class (10) Akshay Kumar 58, 4. Angelita (20 Ashad Asbar 57, 5. Sun Dancer (4) Rafique Sk. 55.5, 6. Beauty Flame (9) Santosh Raj 55, 7. Campania (6) Afroz Khan 55, 8. Show Me Your Walk (11) Abhay Singh 54.5, 9. Southern Act (3) Md. Ismail 52, 10. Painted Apache (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.5 and 11. Team Player (7) Surya Prakash 51.5.

1. TOP IN CLASS, 2. GENERAL ATLANTIC, 3. TEAM PLAYER

Day's Best: **TOP IN CLASS**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

BACK AGAIN

Morgan to play in Legends League Cricket Masters

The Legends League Cricket (LLC) announced that 2019 World Cup winning England captain Eoin Morgan would return to the cricket field for the upcoming LLC Masters season to be held in Qatar from February 27 to March 8. "I am excited to be part of the Legends League Masters and enjoy my game with the Legends."

RECOGNITION

Mehidy Hasan promoted to all-format BCB contract

Mehidy Hasan Miraz's stunning performances throughout 2022 have earned him an all-format Bangaldesh Cricket Board (BCB) contract from January to December 2023. Miraz joined Litton Das, Shakib Al Hasan and Taskin Ahmed in the list of players with all-format contracts.

SENIOR'S ADVICE

If you work on line and length you can rule: Shami to Umran

Indian pacer Mohammed Shami feels young Umran Malik "can rule the world" if he works on his line and length. "There's only one piece of advice I want to give. I don't think it's easy to play against the pace that you have. Just that we need to work a little on line and length. If we can get a command over it, we can rule the world".

CLEAN SLATE

Indian Women's hockey team holds SA, remains unbeaten

The Indian women's hockey team remained unbeaten in its South Africa Tour as it registered a 2-2 draw against the hosts in its fourth match in Cape Town on Sunday. India had won the earlier three games. Debutante Vaishnavi Vithal Palkhe scored both the goals for the visitors. India takes on Netherlands on Monday.

India tumbles out after a dramatic shootout against New Zealand

An erratic performance, specially after leading by two goals twice, from the host costs it dearly and it will now have to fight for 9-16 places in classification matches

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

Super save: New Zealand goalkeeper Hayward blocks Shamsher's effort during the shootout. BISWARANJAN ROUT

It took 19 shots in the shootout and the sudden death to separate the two teams but in the end, India was left ruing the multitude of what-ifs as it lost 5-4 on penalties to New Zealand after being tied 3-3 in regulation time in the hockey World Cup crossover match here on Sunday night. Worse, India lost P.R. Sreejesh for the last three shots through injury and although Krishan Pathak did his best, India's attackers fumbled.

It was not the way the team would have imagined its medal hopes would end at home when it took a two-goal lead twice through the game, dominating the Black Sticks for long periods and creating chances upfront that went abegging. It was a much improved performance after the Welsh disappointment but it was not enough against a gritty New Zealand that set up a quarterfinal clash against reigning champion Belgium for its efforts.

The things coach Graham Reid had spoken about that needed work were improved. The forwards backed each other up but did not crowd in. The finishing was more on-target. But the elusive penalty corner conversions continued – India earned 10 and could only convert one, taken by Varun Kumar.

Harmapreet Singh, the talismanic Indian captain and its best hope to advance, was expected to finally come good but his woes continued – including missing a key shot in the shootout. New Zealand, on the other hand, was two-in-two with its PCs in a space of six minutes.

India's second half woes also continued, surprising given its dominance in the first. In fact, India got increasingly error-prone in defence as the game progressed, conceding turnovers and mis-passing towards the end.

India started strongly and despite an opening attack from New Zealand, took control and had its first shot at goal in the seventh minute. It kept pushing into the opposition circle from either flank and the forwards, despite missing a few chances, were more in the right positions compared to their previous outing.

A steal in the Indian 25-yard area by Harmanpreet initiated India's first goal. A long through ball to Akashdeep Singh, sending it to Shamsher before the latter sent a perfectly placed cross to Upadhyay, who took it on the run, took his time to get into position and slammed it into the board in the 18th minute.

India looked to have doubled the lead five minutes later off back-to-back penalty corners but Nilakanta Sharma's third-shot rebound was cancelled for a backstick from Abhishek in the final pass. Two minutes later, though, Sukhjeet slotted in a rebound off another PC and this time there was no confusion.

India also paid the price for ignoring the key danger men for New Zealand. Veteran Simon Child had been expected to feed Sam Lane and create PCs for Kane Russell and he was everywhere for NZ. Inexplicably, the Indians time and again left him alone and the former took full advantage, repeatedly setting up the latter, creating the PC that Russell converted and made quite a few goalline saves during India's PCs.

The host will now to travel back to Rourkela for the 9-16 classification games.

The result: New Zealand 3 (Sam Lane, Kane Russell, Sean Findlay) drew with India 3 (Lalit Upadhyay, Sukhjeet Singh, Varun Kumar). New Zealand won 5-4 via penalty shoot-out.

We let ourselves down by giving the ball away too easily: Reid

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

India coach Graham Reid finally admitted penalty-corner conversions let the team down in the crucial crossover match against New Zealand.

"Obviously our PC conversion (was off) but we also had a lot of circle penetrations that we couldn't convert. We scored three goals today and 3-4 goals would normally be enough. We probably needed to be more in front and tighter in defence," he said.

But he put the entire team in the dock for allowing New Zealand to take control despite being up by two goals twice. "We still created enough tonight to win. The problem was that every time we won the ball, we just gave it back to him and that was the telling factor. They got their 2nd and 3rd goals when we gave the ball back just after we won it. At this level you can't do that.

"We made mistakes which we don't normally do, we need to analyse and talk about them and come up with solutions before our next game. I am sure pressure and expectations all come into mix. Tonight we let ourselves down in the last quarter and threw the ball away. We probably have to go back to the drawing board... it's still execution at the end of day."

Spain prevails over a resolute Malaysia

Star of the day: Goalkeeper Mario Garin, right, was Spain's hero in the shootout against Malaysia. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Aashin Prasad
BHUBANESWAR

Spain had all the possession, circle penetration and shots on goal but in the end, it needed a penalty shootout to prevail against a resolute Malaysia in the crossover match and book its quarterfinal berth. Goalkeeper Mario Garin, who watched the 2-2 draw from the bench, turned hero in the shootouts with two saves to give Spain a 4-3 win here at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday.

Renewed vigour

After a goalless first half, Spain came out with renewed vigour but it was Malaysia which took the lead. In the 34th minute, Jali fizzed a long pass along the turf into the edge of the Spanish circle, where Faizal Saari's movement befuddled the two Spanish defenders allowing Saari to pick his spot and fire the ball in to sound the board.

After the goal, Spain displayed improved technical quality and pace in its attack, leading to errors inside the circle from Malaysia.

Two quick-fire goals courtesy a penalty stroke from Miralles and Xavier Gispert, who finished into an empty net after brilliant play from Pere Amat, put the Europeans ahead.

Malaysia didn't go away though as it equalised in the fourth quarter through Shello Silverius, who reverse hit the ball past Adrian Rafi from inside the six-yard area.

Malaysia survived with a draw with some tense defending in the final minutes but in the end, Garin came up trumps with saves against Marhan Jalil and Firhan Ashari to send Spain through to the next round.

The result: Malaysia 2 (Faizal Saari 34, Shello Silverius 48) drew with Spain 2 (Marc Miralles 40, Xavier Gispert 41) *Spain won 4-3 via penalties.*

Shami — playing the role of senior pro

NZ IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
INDORE

Shami. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

If Mohammed Shami is the *Ustad* (master) of the full ball and seam-up pace bowling in India, Mohammed Siraj is his *shagird* (protege).

While the protege has stolen the limelight in the four ODIs in 2023 so far, the master was at his artistic best on Saturday, with Siraj playing the support role to perfection. The duo's lethal opening spell, dominated by Shami's literally unplayable deliveries, spelt doom to the New Zealand top-order in Raipur.

Riding on his effective, economical and rewarding spell, India bundled the Kiwis out for a meagre 108.

Despite being the seniormost pacer in India's unit, Shami downplayed a query about his evolving role in the team, especially in Jasprit Bumrah's absence. But he stressed the fact that game-time was the top-most priority in an era dominated by workload management.

"Load is being managed and it is being managed properly. I just hope the main players stay in a good zone (ahead of the World Cup)." Despite brushing aside a query about his role, it is evident from his on-field demeanour that Shami has been playing the role of a senior to perfection.

He has been constantly in the younger pacers' ears, be it Siraj or Shardul Thakur or Umran Malik during nets sessions.

"I always talk to the bowlers. I know when someone is putting in the effort, but not getting the desired results, it can be very helpful if you talk to your partner. That is the role I like to play when I am bowling," he said.

Parshavi sets up India's big win

ANI
POTCHEFSTROOM

A stunning spell of leg-spin bowling by Parshavi Chopra led India to a hasty, seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in their second Super Six match in the inaugural ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

The scores:
Sri Lanka 59/9 in 20 overs (Parshavi Chopra 4/5) lost to India 60/3 in 7.2 overs.

Arsenal shades five-goal thriller

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Arsenal moved five points clear at the top of the Premier League thanks to Eddie Nketiah's 90th minute winner to beat Manchester United 3-2 on Sunday.

Earlier, Erling Haaland's fourth hat-trick in 19 Premier League appearances helped Manchester City registered a 3-0 win over Wolves.

The results:

Premier League: Leeds 0 drew with Brentford 0; Manchester City 3 (Haaland 40, 50-pen, 54) bt Wolves 0; Arsenal 3 (Nketiah 24, 90, Saka 53) bt Manchester United 2 (Rashford 17, Martinez 59).

LaLiga: Villarreal 1 (Parejo 90+10-pen) bt Girona 0.

On Saturday:

Premier League: Crystal Palace 0 drew with Newcastle 0.

LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 0 lost to Real Sociedad 2 (Sorloth 15, Barrenetxea 36); Atletico Madrid 3 (Morata 18, Griezmann 23, Hermoso 28) bt Real Valladolid 0; Sevilla 1 (Rakitic 89-pen) bt Cadiz 0.

Serie A: Salernitana 0 lost to Napoli 2 (Di Lorenzo 45+2, Osimhen 48).

Bundesliga: Union Berlin 3 (Doekhi 73, 89, Leweling 90+6) bt Hoffenheim 1 (Bebou 43).

Rybakina stuns top seed Swiatek; Ostapenko beats Gauff

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Major upset: Rybakina's defeat of Swiatek makes this the first Grand Slam in the Open era to lose the top two men's and women's seeds before the quarterfinals. GETTY IMAGES

Top seed Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff crashed out in straight sets in the last 16 on Sunday on another day of shocks at the Australian Open.

Swiatek's defeat to Elena Rybakina makes it the first Grand Slam in the Open era – since 1968 – to lose the top two seeds in the men's and women's draws before the quarterfinals.

Jessica Pegula surged into the last eight with a 7-5, 6-2 win over former French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova.

Wimbledon champion Rybakina swept past the 2022 French and US Open winner Swiatek 6-4, 6-4 in 1hr 29min. Jelena Ostapenko provided the second upset of a crazy few minutes by knocking out seventh seed Gauff 7-5, 6-3.

Victoria Azarenka reached the quarterfinals at 2:17 a.m. after winning a bruising late-night encounter 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 against China's Zhu Lin.

The men's draw has also seen a series of surprise results. Greece's Stefano Tsitsipas, the highest remaining men's seed at three, avoided the fate of Rafael Nadal and Casper Ruud with a dogged victory over Jannik Sinner. Tsitsipas, who is pursuing a first Major crown, defeated the Italian 15th seed 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal with the unseeded Jiri Lehecka.

Lehecka added to the list of fallen seeds by beating sixth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 7-6(3). Giantkiller Sebastian Korda clawed into a maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 [10-7] upset of 10th seed Hubert Hurkacz.

THE RESULTS

Men: Fourth round:
18-Khachanov bt 31-Nishioka (Jpn) 6-0, 6-0, 7-6(4); 29-Korda (USA) bt 10-Hurkacz (Pol) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6[10/7]; Lehecka (Cze) bt 6-Auger-Aliassime (Can) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(3); 3-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt 15-Sinner (Ita) 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Women: fourth round:
22-Rybakina (Kaz) bt 1-Swiatek (Pol) 6-4, 6-4; 17-Ostapenko (Lat) bt 7-Gauff (USA) 7-5, 6-3; 3-Pegula (USA) bt 20-Krejcikova (Cze) 7-5, 6-2; 24-Azarenka (Blr) bt Zhu Lin (Chn) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Fallen seeds
Men: 6-Auger-Aliassime, 10-Hurkacz, 15-Sinner, 31-Nishioka
Women: 1-Swiatek, 7-Gauff, 20-Krejcikova

WFI AGM called off

Sports Bureau

Following the Union Sports Ministry's direction to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to suspend all its activities immediately until the Oversight Committee is formally appointed and takes over day-to-day functioning of the federation, the WFI called off its general body and executive body meetings scheduled at Gonda on Sunday.

Late on Saturday night, the Ministry had issued an order asking the WFI to stop its activities and cancel the National ranking tournament at Gonda. It also suspended WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar to ensure proper functioning of the WFI.

"We are obeying the Government orders. We had to call off the meetings scheduled today because of the Ministry's order to put all activities on hold," WFI secretary general V.N. Prasood said. "We have to wait until the Oversight Committee finishes its work in four weeks."

The committee will investigate various allegations, including charges of sexual harassment of some woman athletes, slapped by some prominent wrestlers.

INBRIEF

FC Goa pulls off a facile win over Kerala Blasters at home

FC Goa got the better of Kerala Blasters 3-1 in an Indian Super League match at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao on Sunday. With 23 points from 15 games, Goa is now in the fifth spot, while Blasters stay on 25 points after 14 matches.

The result: FC Goa 3 (Iker Guarraotxena 35-pen,Noah Sadaoui 43, Redeem Tiang 69) bt Kerala Blasters 1 (Dimitrios Diamantakos 51).

Wheelchair tennis legend Kunieda calls it quits

Shingo Kunieda, 50-time Grand Slam champion and one of the greatest wheelchair tennis players of all time, retired on Sunday saying he had "done enough". The 38-year-old Japanese player spent a total of 582 weeks as World No. 1 and won four Paralympic golds, including at the Covid-postponed Tokyo Paralympics in 2021. Kunieda was No. 1 in the International Tennis Federation's year-end ranking 10 times, the first in 2007 and as recently as last year.

RoundGlass Punjab thumps Mohammedan Sporting

Juan Mera and Luka Majcen scored a brace each as RoundGlass Punjab FC thrashed Mohammedan Sporting 4-0 in an I-League match in Kolkata on Sunday. Mera scored in the 17th and 75th minutes, while Majcen found the back of the net in the 41st and 52nd minutes.

The scores: RoundGlass Punjab FC 4 (Juan Mera 2, Luka Majcen 2) bt Mohammedan Sporting.

Rawat finishes runner-up in the Jakarta ITF tournament

Sidharth Rawat went down 4-6, 3-6 to second seed Arthur Weber of France in the final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Jakarta on Sunday. It was the second career singles title for the the 30-year-old Weber.

LIVE TELECAST

Australian Open: Sony Sports 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 & 7 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
Women's T20I tri-series: Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 10.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Pragg scores second win; Arjun, Gukesh lose

TATA STEEL CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5 points) took his time to nail local hope Jorden van Foreest in 64 moves for his second win from seven rounds of the Masters section of the Tata Steel chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee on Saturday. Nodirbek Abdusattorov (5.5) consolidated his lead by inflicting a first defeat on Arjun Erigaisi (3) while D. Gukesh (1.5) suffered a second loss and fourth in all after running into Wesley So.

In the Challengers section, R. Vaishali (3) scored her second successive victory while B. Adhiban (3) suffered his first loss after six draws.

The results (seventh round):
Masters: R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2); Arjun Erigiasi (3) lost to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 5.5); D. Gukesh (1.5) lost to So Wesley (USA, 4.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 3.5) bt Richard Rapport (Rom, 2.5); Levon Aronian (USA, 3.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 4); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 2) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5); Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 3.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4.5).

Challengers: R. Vaishali (3) bt Luis Supi (Bra, 3); B. Adhiban (3) lost to Jergus Pechac (Svk, 1.5); Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 5) bt Eline Roebers (Ned, 2); Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 5.5) bt Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 4.5); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 3) drew with Velimir Ivic (Ser, 4.5); Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 4.5) bt Abhimanyu Mishra (2.5); Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 4) bt Erwin L'Ami (3).

Kunlavut masters Axelsen to script a fantastic triumph

In a memorable day for the challengers, Se-young raises her game to bounce back and stun top-seeded Yamaguchi for the women's crown; Liang-Wang combine takes the honours in men's section while the other two doubles finals see walkovers

INDIA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Great going! Kunlavut and Se-young with their reward after reigning supreme in the singles events on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The challengers rose to the occasion and tamed the top seeds to emerge champions.

The talented Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand and An Se-young of Korea asserted their tenacity as they beat the reigning World champions to bag the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the $900,000 Yonex Sunrise India Open at the KD Jadhav Hall here on Sunday.

For the excited fans who packed the stands, it was high-quality entertainment that compensated for the two walkovers in the women's and mixed doubles finals, as the Chinese fell sick.

It was a dream come true for the three-time World junior champion, the 21-year-old Kunlavut to beat the World and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen 22-20, 10-21, 21-12.

The outrageously talented Kunlavut, who swung the racquet behind his back and between his legs to unleash some stunning shots, did not get carried away and played purposefully in the decider.

In contrast, Axelsen looked resigned to his fate as he hurtled to defeat, hurrying many shots to the net from 10-12 in the third game.

The towering Axelsen graciously walked under the net to congratulate the champion who was celebrating on an emotional high. Axelsen had beaten the Thai in three finals, including the World Championship.

The winner pocketed $59,500 and the runner-up $28,900.

The prize money was the same for the women, and there was no dearth of entertainment as well, as the 20-year-old An Se-young rode on the encouragement from the stands, and found admirable reserves of energy at the crunch, to overcome top seed Akane Yamaguchi 15-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Superb shots

Yamaguchi was unable to get into a higher gear and failed to fight on from 11-13 in the decider, even as the 20-year-old Korean came up with superb shots for her 12th title on the Tour.

It was absolutely top-class to see how Se-young turned the match around from 12-12 in the second game for an unforgettable defeat of the World No. 1.

The results (finals):
Men: Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) bt Viktor Axelsen (Den) 22-20, 10-21, 21-12.
Doubles: Liang Wei Keng & Wang Chang (Chn) bt Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Mas) 14-21, 21-19, 21-18.
Women: An Se Young (Kor) bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 15-21, 21-16, 21-12.
Doubles: Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida w/o Chen Qing Chen & Jia Yi Fan (Chn).
Mixed doubles: Yuta Watanabe & Arisa Higashino (Jpn) w/o Wang Yi Lyu & Huang Dong Ping (Chn).

Khalin Joshi and Kartik Sharma earn Asian Tour cards

GOLF

Press Trust of India
HUA HIN (THAILAND)

India's Khalin Joshi and Kartik Sharma grabbed two of the 35 cards on offer at the five-round 90-hole Asian Tour Qualifying School Final Stage, ensuring themselves a fair number of starts on the Tour in 2023.

The Indian duo totalled 9-under for five rounds and were tied 26th. It was a long test over 90 holes with more than 240 players starting out.

The top 140 and ties played after the first two rounds.

A total of 13 Indians started out in the 234-player field and nine made the first cut applied after 36 holes and then just two – Joshi and Sharma – were left among the top-70 and ties.

Australian Jack Thompson graduated with first class honours after winning the Final Stage by two shots over countryman John Lyras and China's Bai Zhengkai.

Indian women keen to carry momentum against West Indies

TRI-SERIES

Press Trust of India
EAST LONDON

Hoping for the seniors to return to the playing XI, India will look to continue the winning run, when it takes on West Indies in the Women's T20 Tri-Series match here on Monday.

The Indians, without skipper Harmanpreet Kaur in the win over hosts South Africa, gave a good account of themselves in their opener.

Harmanpreet missed the tie against South Africa owing to illness and it remains to be seen if she returns for the match against the West Indies

Irrespective of whether the seniors return or not against the West Indies, a bit of focus will surely be on the 21-year-old Amanjot here on Monday, when the Women in Blue will look to consolidate their position in the tournament.

Even though some seniors have taken ill and teen sensations Shafali Verma and Richa Gosh are busy with their commitments in the Under-19 World Cup, India can call on the services of senior all-rounder, Deepti Sharma.

The tri-series is significant as it is the last tournament before the Women's T20 World Cup next month.

The scores:
On Saturday: South Africa 141/5 in 20 overs (Marizanne Kapp 52, Sune Luss 30) bt West Indies 97/8 in 20 overs.

Angad tops in skeet final

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Olympian Angad Vir Singh Bajwa roared back to the top as he beat Abhay Singh Sekhon 39-34 in the skeet final of the National shotgun selection trials in Patiala. In the women's section, Ganemat Sekhon topped by beating Parinaaz Dhaliwal 36-30.

The results: Skeet: Men: 1. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 39 (29) 118; 2. Abhay Singh Sekhon 34 (27) 116; 3. Anantjeet Singh Naruka 28 (25) 120; 4. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 18 (28)116.
Junior men: 1. Rituraj Singh Bundela 117; 2. Harmehar Singh Lally 116; 3. Abhay Singh Sekhon 116.
Women: 1. Ganemat Sekhon 36 (28) 113; 2. Parinaaz Dhaliwal 30 (25) 113; 3. Zahra Mufaddal Deesawala 25 (25) 111; 4. Maheshwari Chauhan 13 (26) 110.
Junior women: 1. Sanjana Sood 114; 2. Zahra Mufaddal Deesawala 111; 3. Yashasvi Rathore 108.

A profitable day for Tamil Nadu hoopsters

JR. NATL. BASKETBALL

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Tamil Nadu women thrashed Nagaland 133-27 and the men beat Mizoram 88-71 at the 72nd junior National basketball championships here on Sunday.

Important results: Men: Karnataka 67 (N.M. Vishnu 24, K. Lingesh 14) bt Maharashtra 55 (Sahil Dhanvati 17, Shivraj Patel 13); Rajasthan 84 (Rahul 26, Harin Saini 17, Vikas Choudhary 15) bt Kerala 63 (C.K. Rinil 16, Alfin Charley 16, Emmanuel T. Shaibu 15); Tamil Nadu 88 (S. Ajay 16, V. Sharan 16, B. Subinvel 15, S. Pragalathan 11) bt Mizoram 71 (Emmanuel Awmpuia 14, Lalruatkima 14, Moses Lalmuananzoa 10); Uttarakhand 93 (Hardik Sharma 31, Priyanshu Chand 20, Priyanshu Kumar 11, Sahil Dhami 11) bt Delhi 78 (Toshit Tomar 24, Mohit 18, Siddant Tomar 15, Paramjeet Shekhawat 10).

On-court action: Tamil Nadu men got the better of Mizoram.

Madhya Pradesh 82 (Vikas Sharma 31, Bhagat Singh 26, Harshi Ahlawat 10) bt Andhra Pradesh 70 (Gurucharan 17, Adarshpaul 15, Sathya Prakash 13, Swarka Natha Reddy 12).

Women: Tamil Nadu 133 (Sadhana Veronica 24, H. Harshaya 22) bt Nagaland 27 (Keneingunuo 11); Maharashtra 68 (Mansi Nirmalakar 18, Aanya Bhaskar 18, Ricca Ravi 15, Bhumika Sarje 13) bt Karnataka 62 (Mekhala Gowda 13, Aadhya Gowda 10); West Bengal 125 (Smriti Kanakabiraj 34, Diya Hazra 27, Swatika Sanu 26, Ananya mandal 21) bt Meghalaya 32 (Wanrikynti Kurbah 12, Lynette P. Mylliemngap 12); Kerala 65 (Ashlin Shiju 21, Avani Nanda 11) bt Madhya Pradesh 62 (Khushi Pal Singh 31, Samya Wadhani 10).

Uttar Pradesh 95 (Nancy Gupta 38, Vidhi Yadav 18, Aanavi Anand 16) bt Haryana 82 (Anju 35, Mannu 26, Nancy 17).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Haryana women get the better of Karnataka

Pooja Phogat starred with a five-wicket haul (5/23) as Haryana defeated Karnataka by three wickets in the BCCI Senior Women's One Day Trophy in Mumbai.

The scores: Karnataka 152 in 44.1 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 43, Monica C. Patel 42, Pooja Phogat 5/23) lost to Haryana 156/7 in 43.3 overs (Reema Sisodia 26, Sheetal Rana 53).

Negi's five-for helps HP restrict Karnataka

MYSURU: Mukul Negi's five for 36 helped Himachal Pradesh bowl out the host Karnataka for 166 in its first innings, on the first day of their four-day Col. C.K. Nayadu Trophy U-25 tournament match here on Sunday. At the close of play, Himachal Pradesh was 24 for one.

The scores: Karnataka 166 in 77.4 overs (K.V. Aneesh 30, A.A. Lochan 29, Mukul Negi 5/36) vs Himachal Pradesh 24/1 in 7 overs.

Alchemy International triumphs

BENGALURU: Jomon Jacob's brace helped Alchemy Intl FA defeat Kickstart FC 2-0 to win the KSFA Youth Premier League under-18 title on Sunday.

Champion: The victorious Alchemy International team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The result: Alchemy Intl FA 2 (Jomon Jacob 6, 10) bt Kickstart FC 0.
Special awards: Best goalkeeper: Divyaj Thakkar (Alchemy); **defender:** Allen Dammu (Kickstart); **midfielder:** Jomon Jacob (Alchemy).

Darshan 'tricks for KFSBS

Darshan scored a hat-trick as Karnataka Forest Sport Board Society (KFSBS) blanked Rising Star HC 3-0 in the KSHA A-division league hockey here on Sunday.

The results: HMT B1 6 (Teswin 9, Mosin 14, 50, Karthik 17, Akhil 26, Adhul 36) bt Om Sai HC 4 (Yashwin 12, Arun 28, 47, Kiran 59); Karnataka Forest Sport Board Society 3 (Darshan 20, 28, 43) bt Rising Star HC 0.

Ayush slams a double in BGS NPS' thumping win

Ayush M. Patil's double century (225) helped BGS NPS hammer School Vivekananda by 269 runs in the BTR Shield under-14 (Group I) first division tournament.

The scores: Ebenezer IS 492/2 in 50 overs (R. Parth 100, Abhishek N. Gowda 215, Rithvik Kulasekar 125 n.o., Suvik Gill 27 n.o.) bt Vidyaniketan School 66 in 26.3 overs (Sai Teja Thokala 3/12, Suvik Gill 3/7).

Holy Saint English School 292/6 in 50 overs (Vishnu Reddy 36, M. Rahul 32, Vedaraj K. Yadav 119 n.o., Gaurav Venkatesh 37 n.o., N.S. Shaurya 3/37) lost to DPS, East 293/3 in 43 overs (Aarush Sinha 32, R. Nithin 104 n.o., N.S. Shaurya 101 n.o.).

BGS NPS 370/7 in 50 overs (Ayush M. Patil 225, Arnav Gurudatta Mewundi 59, Levin Paul Leo 3/63) bt School Vivekananda 101 in 23.5 overs (L. Vishwaas Gowda 44, Arnav Gurudatta Mewundi 3/12, B.S. Jashith 3/18).

Max Muller High School 208/9 in 50 overs (Karan Raghavendra 26, Nitish Arya 51, M. Jayan Samyog 82 n.o., Arav Prasad 4/31, TNV Siddharth 3/36) lost to Bishop Cotton Boys School 259/1 in 40 overs (C. Niranjan Gowda 88 n.o., TNV Siddharth 83 n.o.).

Sri Kumaran Children's Home 119 in 38 overs (Samarth Rajagopalan 47, S. Leshan 4/9) lost to Jain Heritage School 120/2 in 27 overs (Aditya Jha 33, Aaryansinh Chavda 27 n.o.).

DPS North 241 in 48.2 overs (D. Chiranth 39, M. Assad 64, Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 50, Adhiraj Talwar 3/33, J. Sukruth 5/46) bt St. Joseph's BHS 172 in 47.3 overs (Ikkurthi Lakshmi Venkata Sai Raghavendra 46, Adhiraj Talwar 29).

Mallya Aditi IS 182 in 46 overs (Yashas Giri Shankar 49, Arhaan Jai Singh 74, Viaan Joshi 4/41) lost to DPS South 176 for no loss in 20.1 overs (Dhruv Santhosh Rao 104 n.o., Rachit Das 64 n.o.).

Prajwal's big ton highlights St. Joseph Indian HS' big victory

H.D. Prajwal Gowda's century (151) was the highlight as St. Joseph's Indian High School defeated Baldwin Boys High School by 218 runs in the BTR Shield under-14 (Group I) second division tournament.

The scores: School of India 215 in 47.1 overs (Siddharth Kona 34, P. Lithik Reddy 40, R.G. Deekshith Gowda 30, G.S. Monish Gowda 3/39, C. Nithin 3/64) bt Carmel HS, Basaveshwarnagar 172 in 40.4 overs (G.S. Monish Gowda 35, C. Nithin 27, Sreearjun Balusu 5/28).

Florence PS 127 in 27.3 overs (Syed Abdullah Aleem 37, Anshuman Shyam Sirsikar 34, Swarup Jayannthilal Jain 5/39, Siddharth Sanjeev Mishra 3/3) lost to Jain International Residential School 129/5 in 27.2 overs (Rachit Jain 28, Yuvraj Bose 26, Arjun Balu 3/31).

Bethany HS 190 in 44.5 overs (Samarth Patil 56, K. Nithin 63, Satvik Mahendra 3/24) lost to Giridhanva School 193/2 in 20 overs (M. Shivu 126 n.o.).

Venus IS 110 in 28.3 overs (Adi Chopra 28, Skanda 4/9) lost to Little Flower PS 111/1 in 9.3 overs (A. Rishik 73 n.o.).

Kensri School 234 in 42.4 overs (S. Shashank 31, P. Navadeep 32, R. Mukul Gowda 41, C.S. Dushyanth 54, S. Tanav 4/32, Aniketh Kaushik Kundapur 3/31) lost to Clarence PS 235/8 in 38.4 overs (Srijesh Parthiban 46, S. Pranav 30 n.o., Mukund Raj 3/30).

St. Joseph's Indian HS 366 in 49 overs (Pratham Shankar 61, H.D. Prajwal Gowda 151, N. Dhanush Kumar 46, Chandan Harish 3/75) bt Baldwin BHS 148 in 41.5 overs (Himanshu Saini 30, Ankith Nandish 3/17, P. Chiranth 3/35, Pratham Shankar 3/27).

KLE Society's School 117 in 41.1 overs (Aashrit Ram Inapakuthika 3/28, Dhruv Shravan Navin 4/8) lost to Sri Kumaran Children's Academy 118/1 in 9.5 overs (Prateek Raj Harapanahalli 42 n.o., Aashrit Ram Inapakuthika 52 n.o.).